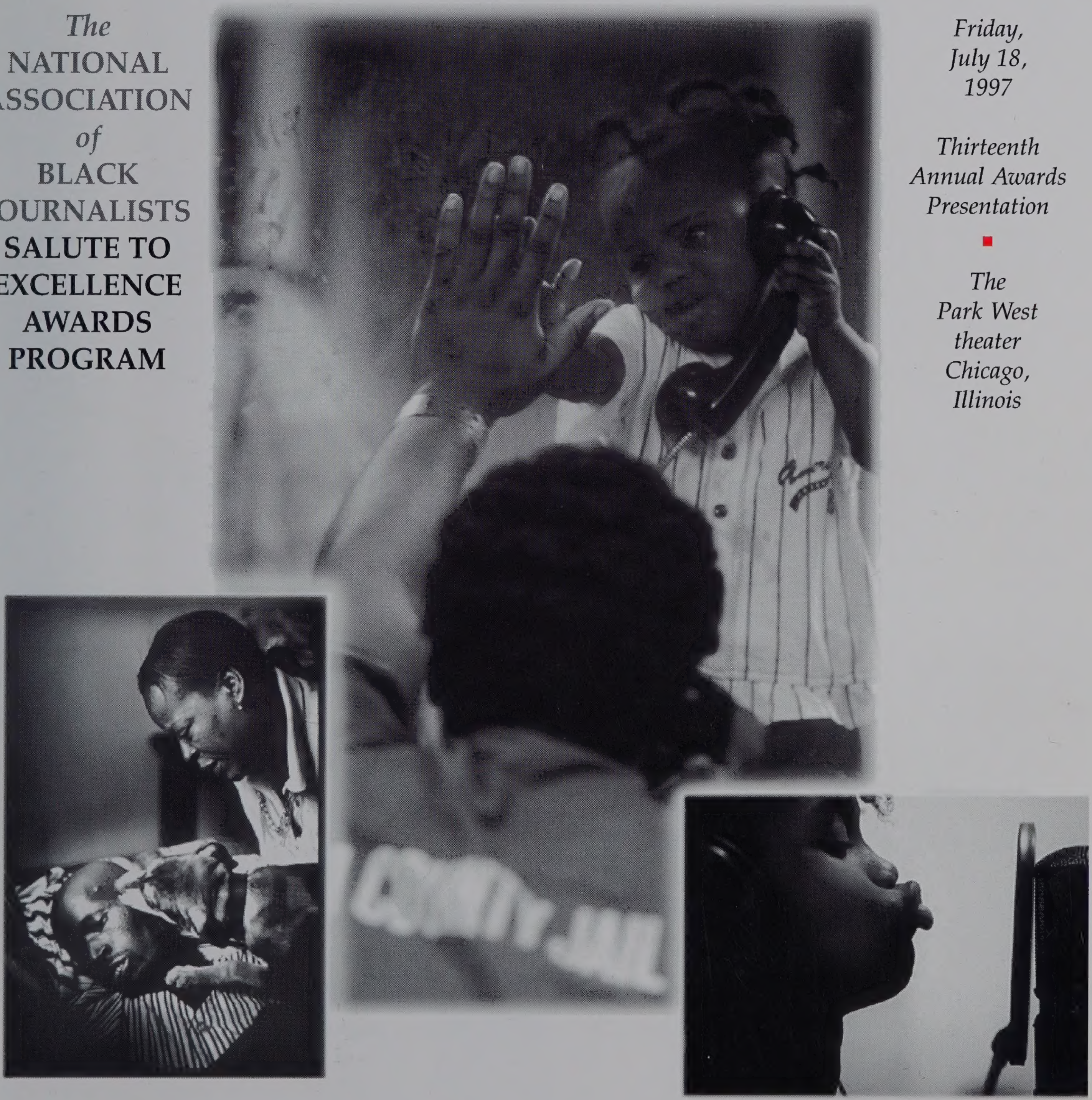
NABJ 1997

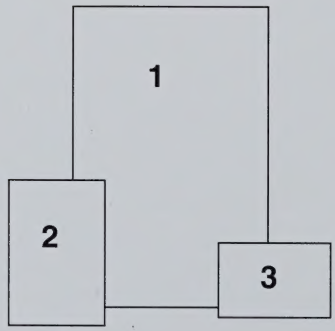
The
NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
of
BLACK
JOURNALISTS
SALUTE TO
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS
PROGRAM

Friday,
July 18,
1997

Thirteenth
Annual Awards
Presentation

The
Park West
theater
Chicago,
Illinois





■ **PHOTO COLLAGE**
Winning photos by:
1. Clarence Williams
2. Ron Cortes
3. Bebeto Matthews

"REMEMBERING A FRIEND" BY SMILEY N. POOL—HOUSTON CHRONICLE

A Salute
To Excellence

Chicago,
July
16 - 20

Hyatt Regency
Chicago

Chicago,
Illinois

NABJ 1997

TWENTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION *of* BLACK JOURNALISTS

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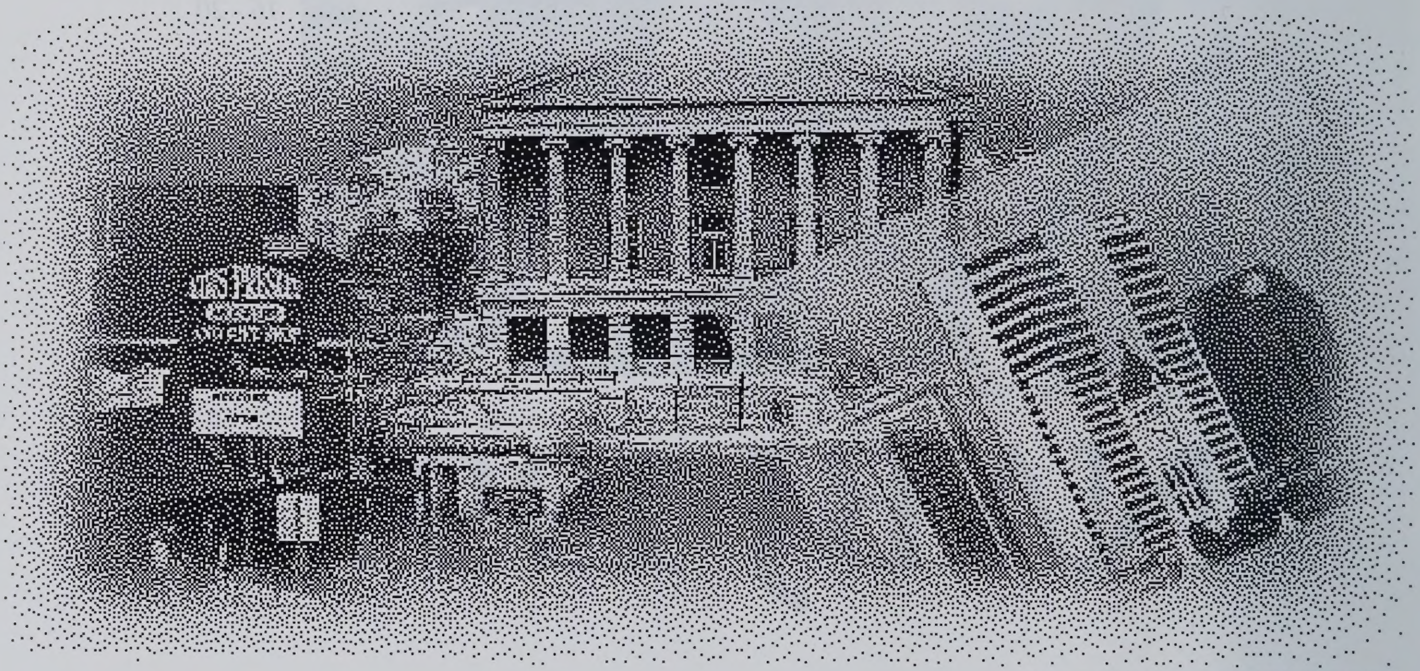

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The PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the membership and Board of Directors of NABJ, it's an honor and pleasure to welcome you to our gala Awards program. We also are delighted to bring you the fourth issue of our Awards Book highlighting our honorees.

For thirteen years now we've been saluting excellence in our industry by awarding those journalists whose works have been superior in covering the African-American community. Without question, NABJ represents some of the finest journalistic talent in the world. Each day, our members are on the frontline and in the backrooms of the media industry—from newspapers and magazines to radio and television.

Sometimes our jobs are especially tough. We not only cover the African-American experience, but we live it every day. We believe that the combination of our cultural insight and diverse backgrounds gives us a unique perspective that enhances our coverage. We remain dedicated to excellence, personal and professional growth and improving our industry and communities.

We salute our members and other top journalists for making a difference in covering the world in which we live. Most of all, we thank you for helping to set the standard for aspiring journalists everywhere.

Continued success,

ARTHUR FENNELL

President 1995-1997

This award is given for a career of ethical, insightful and responsible journalism.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

SAMUEL L. ADAMS

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Professor Samuel L. Adams' role as a teacher extends beyond his classroom at the University of Kansas.

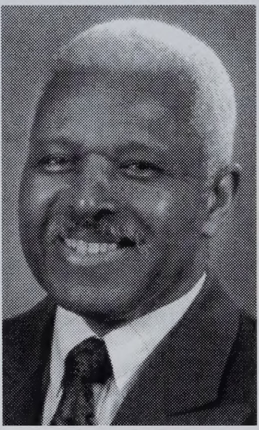
A pioneer among black journalists across the nation, Adams has been an award-winning reporter, an educator at three universities, a national political consultant, and a civil rights activist.

In a 42-year career, the associate professor of journalism has mentored hundreds of former students and journalists who have flourished under his wing. When he's not in the classroom, Adams travels the nation to encourage students to pursue journalism as a career - and to find programs, internships or scholarships to help fund their education.

"Black students at schools fail to get nurtured in a general university, so I've got to apply that," Adams said in an recent interview. "These students have been my ride. They make me look good."

A one-time aspiring newspaper cartoonist, Adams knew as a boy in Georgia that he wouldn't follow his brothers' footsteps in medicine. He had a higher calling - increasing minority representation in journalism.

"Medical bags are deep, but they haven't had as much fruit as I've had," Adams said. "It seemed important to me even back then that we need to begin defining ourselves."



His 99-year-old father, J.N. Adams, was an entrepreneur who owned a shoe repair shop, pawn shop and clothing stores. Viola Virgil Adams, his mother, ran a dry cleaning business.

As a reporter for the St. Petersburg Times in the 1960s, Adams covered the civil rights movement under Martin Luther King Jr. After passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, he was the first to travel throughout the South to test the admittance of blacks in segregated public accommodations. In 1965, Adams' investigative stories covering thefts of national student loan funds led to indictments and a conviction of school officials.

He was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 1964 and 1965.

Two years later, as an undercover migrant farm worker, Adams broke stories in Mississippi and Florida that fueled a national campaign to investigate hunger in America. His stories, anti-poverty research, and teachings at the University of Wisconsin, earned him an invitation to participate in the 1969 White House Conference on hunger and malnutrition. He contributed to a national policy to fight the problem.

Adams' passion to empower blacks in the mid-1960s was key in the election of hundreds of minority officials across the South. As director of the Atlanta-based Southern Regional Council, Adams wrote a grant proposal that attracted $1.5 million from the Ford Foundation to start a Voter Education Project.

Later in the early 1970's, he became deputy director of the minorities division of the Democratic National Committee.

In the mid-70's, Adams dabbled in broadcast journalism as a producer and interviewer for televison and radio talk shows. Adams, who laughingly describes his age as "I could retire tomorrow," has been an associate professor at the University of Kansas since 1973. There, he founded the Ida B. Wells Award to honor people who have shown exemplary achievement in the advancement, hiring and promotion of minorities in the news media. Adams also sits as trustee of a number of scholarship trusts and foundations. He's a member of numerous professional organizations, has given countless speeches, and been the recipient of dozens of awards.

Adams counts the National Association of Black Journalists' Lifetime Achievement Award among his most treasured.

"It comes as a tremendous surprise, but the most marvelous of awards I've won, " Adams said. "It just means somebody wishes to recognize good talent for somebody who has done it well for a long time. It just means you're getting old, but gosh, it feels good."

— By Grace Simpson

This award salutes a singular achievement holding to the highest canons of the profession.

JOURNALIST *of* THE YEAR

GARY FIELDS

USA TODAY

Fields was sitting at his desk one weekday afternoon in early 1996 when he overheard his editor at USA Today talking to another reporter about a letter the NAACP had sent to the U.S. Justice Department. The letter beseeched the law enforcement agency to look into seven fires that had burned down black churches in Alabama and Tennessee.

Fields, national crime reporter at USA Today, volunteered to make some calls. Thus began one of the biggest stories of his 16-year career.

Fields and Atlanta reporter Tom Watson scoured newspaper records and talked to people like those from the Southern Poverty Law Center's Klanwatch project to see if there were any other fires. Fields' second story reported that 23 black churches had burned to the ground since April 4, 1993, the first two by white teenagers in Mississippi on the 25th anniversary of the assasination of Martin Luther King Jr.

"From there," said Fields, "it was a just a matter of following the story where it led."

Richard Price, with whom Fields shares the first place award in daily news this year, joined in the story last April.

Fields and Price began visiting the communities in which the churches burned down, weaving stories rich in detail on the impact of the burnings on people's lives and their communities.

"In the African-American community, a natural byproduct of those conversation was to discuss the mistrust people had of the law enforcement authorities," said Fields, who left a job as a police reporter at The Washington Times to join USA TODAY in 1991 as a night rewrite reporter, rising to the national crime beat 18 months ago.

The interviews with parishioners also spawned stories about the difficulty of obtaining loans and insurance reimbursement for the rebuilding efforts.

Spurred in large part by USA TODAY's coverage, President Clinton set up a federal church arson taskforce, and dedicated millions to federal investigations and loans for rebuilding efforts. In addition, Congress enacted two federal laws toughening penalties for church arsons and several states passed new arson statutes.

The story brought Fields a bevy of awards. In addition to Journalist of the Year, NABJ honored Fields with first place in the daily news category for large newspapers and a third-place award in daily news in 1996. Also last year, The Southern Christian Leadership Conference gave Fields the Ed Clayton Award for Journalism for his work on the church burnings. This June, the National Council of Churches awarded Fields the Racial Justice and Domestic Tranquility Partners Achievement Award.

Indeed, part of what made the series so exceptional was its even-handed, unbiased handling of an issue with such combustive potential. The newspapers investigation found that, while racism was a clear factor in some of the burnings, churches of every color are a traditional favorite of arsonists, who torch them at the rate of 10 a week nationwide.

On the other hand, while he was unable to pin it down for print, Fields was not convinced that more of the black church burnings were not the work of racists.

"What I found was that the authorities often tried to move away from the racial aspect of it, really trying not to find race was a factor," Fields says. "We went with what we could prove, but in the cases where the suspects or reasons weren't determined, we'll never be able to prove what was in people's hearts.""

Still, for Fields the 10 months of dogged work was richly rewarding.

Most satisfying, said Fields, was that the project "actually paid attention to something that concerned the black community."

"These churches were burning and, as with most things in our community, they were disappearing off the face of the earth with little notice and no discussion," said Fields. "This series made people acknowledge what was happening."

Fields lives in Silver Spring Md. with his wife Helen Fox and two-year-old daughter, Rachel.

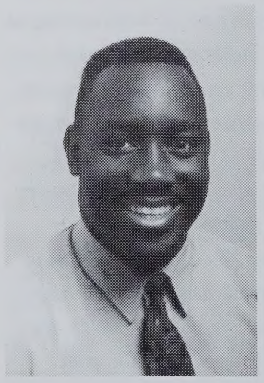
The NABJ Ethel Payne Fellowship program, named for an outstanding black journalist, provides winers with a $5,000 grant to cover a reporting assignment in Africa. The program was created by the Africa Outreach committee in 1992 and is designed for NABJ members who currently have limited opportunities to cover the continent for their news organizations. To compete for one of the fellowships, a NABJ member must be a full-time journalist or freelancer for a newspaper, magazine or broadcast station and have at least five years of experience as a journalist.

ETHEL PAYNE *Fellowship program*

ERIC FRAZIER

CHARLESTON POST AND COURIER

Eric Frazier, a religion and special projects reporter for the Charleston Post and Courier newspaper, is NABJ's 1997 Ethel Payne Fellowship winner for print. Mr. Frazier will travel to Uganda to explore ways in which the rapid growth of Christianity in Africa is having a major impact on solving the continent's problems, ranging from economic and political troubles caused by dictatorships to violent ethnic conflicts.



In his winning proposal, Mr. Frazier wrote: "It is a most ironic tableau: after all those years of missionary expeditions into the heart of the "Dark Continnent," Africa has become the critical center of growth and spiritual ferment in the Christian world." He noted that black missionaries from Anglican churches in Uganda are now going to England and the United States to show "the great-grandsons and great-grandaughters of the colonialists how to do church."

Mr. Frazier is a graduate of The College of Charleston and Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. He began his journalism career at the Post and Courier in 1988. For two years, he worked for The Charlotte Observer. Over the years, his assignments have included government and education beats, poverty and race relations. In 1995, he was a member of a Charlotte Observr news team that became a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize for a story on inner city decay. During the same year, Mr. Frazier was named Journalist of the Year by the South Carolina Press Association.

TRACEY YEARWOOD

CNN-ALL ABOUT WOMEN

Tracey Scruggs Yearwood, a field producer and writer for CNN's All About Women Segment, will travel to South Africa as the 1997 NABJ Ethel Payne Fellowship winner for broadcast. Ms. Yearwood will examine the role and impact that government-linked and grassroots orgnizations are having on the struggle for women's rights and gender equality following the end of apartheid. She plans to compare the power, effectiveness and vision of Winnie Mandela's African National Congress Women's League and little-known women's movements that have gained momentum in the country.

"I strongly feel the significance of this story lies in the idea that the progress of women's rights in Africa may be the final frontier in the global struggle for human rights," Ms. Yearwood argued in her proposal. "This project represents a great opportunity to focus on a sturggle that has been ignored for too long."

Ms. Yearwoood has a Bachelor of Science in communications from Northwestern University and studied Italian Literature at the University of Florence. During her nine years with CNN, she has worked as an editor and coordinator on the international news desk, producer for the three-hour weekly program World Report and associate producer for numerous other shows. Ms. Yearwood was part of a CNN news team that received a cable ACE award for coverage of the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Ms. Yearwood's activities include membership in the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, acting and motorcycling.

Print JOURNALISM

COLLAGE BY JOHN ANDERSON—THE WASHINGTON POST

NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, PHOTOJOURNALISM, ART *and* DESIGN

GARY FIELDS

"WHY ARE CHURCHES BURNING?"

USA TODAY

FIRST PLACE

Fields, whose coverage of the church arsons earned him a third-place prize in the 1996 contest, raised his reporting of the issue to a higher level of complexity and thoroughness this time. The three-part series used vivid, compelling and authoratative writing to demonstrate how arson fires not only burn down buildings but singe the human spirit.

EXCERPT

The fear began right here, on this secluded hilltop in the heart of the Cotton Belt, where 10 generations of black Baptists worshiped at a simple wooden church known as Little Zion.

On the night of Jan. 11, at 9:30, Little Zion caught fire. It burned quickly. The heat of the blaze wilted flowers left on the nearby graves and scorched a giant oak tree that had shaded the hill for 200 years. A crowd of faithful watched helplessly as the flames danced against the night sky. There were uneasy murmurings about what, or who may have started it.

In the terrible glow stood the Rev. W.D. Lewis, who counseled his flock against jumping to conclusions. "We don't know anything, so don't think anything," the white-haired minister preached. "Bad things come to us sometimes. You live with them and go on."

The next morning, fear grew. A motorist driving along a country road eight miles west of Little Zion came upon the ruins of a second black church, Mt. Zoar Baptist outside Boligee. It had burned to the ground the same night. Then people remembered that a third black church, Mount Zion Baptist, inexplicably had burned three weeks earlier.

By nightfall, Greene County was in turmoil. In a county that is 80% black, talk of a white conspiracy swept the streets.

GARY FIELDS began his career as a journalist in 1981, as a sportswriter at a bi-weekly paper, the Natchitoches Times. He later worked as a reporter at the Times in Shrevaport, LA. before moving on to The Washington Times, where he spent a year on the streets as a police reporter during one of the deadliest periods in the city's history.

Fields joined the staff of USA TODAY in July 1991, starting out on the night desk as a rewrite reporter. For the past 18 months, he has reported on national crime issues, encompassing the U.S. Justice Department and its law enforcement agencies.

Fields also received the Racial Justice and Domestic Tranquility Partners Achievement Award from the National Council of Churches for his coverage of the church fires.

He has a bachelors degree in journalism and a masters in English from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, LA.

GRAIG FLOURNOY

"MILLIONS IN CITY AID UNSPENT"

DALLAS MORNING NEWS

SECOND PLACE

For years, Dallas officials repeatedly promised the public that they were doing a good job of spending federal money to help African-American and Hispanic families in the city's poorest neighborhoods. In a powerful package of stories, Flournoy uncovered the hidden truth: Officials had failed for years to spend tens of millions of dollars intended to aid the city's most impoverished areas. And much of the money that was spent went to the City Hall bureaucracy.

EXCERPT Dallas city officials have failed for years to use tens of millions of federal dollars designed to improve substandard housing and deteriorating neighborhoods.

The city currently has $60 million in unspent money from Dallas' Community Development Block Grant program. City officials expect to end this year with $56 million.

And millions that were spent provided little benefit to poor people, interviews and records show.

Records also show that the program's primary beneficiary is the City Hall bureaucracy. One out of every three community development dollars spent in Dallas last year went to city staffers.

Gene Shipman, the assistant city manager who oversees community development, said there is no reason for concern about the unspent funds. "We do not have a problem," said Mr. Shipman, who joined the city May 15.

Some federal and city officials disagreed.

"Because this affects the poorest of the poor, it's a problem," said Chris Luna, who heads the City Council's neighborhood redevelopment panel. "The people you are hurting are those least able to absorb the injury."

CHARISSE JONES

"STARVED GIRL'S BURIAL TOUCHES NEIGHBORS USED TO HARDSHIP"

THE NEW YORK TIMES

THIRD PLACE

Jones' story about the burial of a 4-year-old child who had been starved to death raises the reader's consciousness about parenting, drug abuse and the need to take a stand on behalf of our children.

EXCERPT The people had come with toys and prayers for Nadine Lockwood, the 4-year-old child who would be buried this day. Not permitted into Trumbo's Funeral Chapel in Harlem, they waited, under a searing sun, mothers with strollers and grandmothers with graying hair.

They said they were no strangers to struggle, that they had raised children alone and made a little bit last longer than it should. But still they had never abused their babies. And so they were stunned to hear the story of Nadine, how she had been discovered a week ago emaciated in a crib. And how her own mother was accused of starving her to death.

They did not know the little girl but still they waited yesterday. And when Nadine's father finally emerged from the funeral home and showed his tear-streaked face to the crowd, the mothers' collective grief became a chorus of rage.

SONYA BEARD

"REBUILDING HOPE FROM THE ASHES"

BUCKS COUNTY COURIER

FIRST PLACE

Beard traveled with a Bristol, Pa. church congregation to South Carolina, where parishioners set to work rebuilding one of the churches destroyed by arson. Her series embodies the spirit of a community able to throw up a wall of faith against the forces of hatred.

EXCERPT The plan was to leave Bristol's Bethel AME Church by 8 yesterday morning.

At 8:30, the Rev. Samuel Jenkins was still videotaping his volunteers as they embarked on a six-day missionary trip to South Carolina to help rebuild one of 200 churches destroyed by arson.

By 10 a.m., Jenkins was tracking down cellular phones for the 10-hour drive.

"They haven't left yet?" asked Mary Ryan, a longtime friend who came with church members to see off the pastor and his co-laborers.

No, they hadn't.

The pastor had just found a box for the hard hats the would-be construction workers will wear as they rebuild Butler Chapel AME in Orangeburg.

"They're running on 'CP Time'," Ryan said, using a term used in the old days when "colored" people had no such schedule, but rather a we'll-get-there-when-we-get-there goal.

"I'm sorry for the delay," said Jenkins, after deciding which suitcase to bring.

"I'm only human," he said. "I am also your chairman for this national church rebuilding project, administrator, pastor, husband, father.

"But you are never too late when you're doing the Lord's work."

SONYA BEARD has just begun her career as a journalist, working as a community reporter at the Bucks County Courier Times in Bristol, Pa. A native of Arkansas, Beard graduated from Temple University, where she majored in print journalism and served as editor of the university's daily newspaper. She has held reporting internships at the Arkansas State Press in Little Rock, The Morning Call in Allentown, Pa. and the Philadelphia Inquirer. She also worked part-time as a copy editor at The Philadelphia Tribune.

LEN COOPER

"THE DAMNED"

THE WASHINGTON POST

FIRST PLACE

From yellowed, handwritten documents found in an ancient file at the Library of Congress, Cooper pieced together the harrowing story of black people held in slavery in the early part of the 20th century. Said NABJ judges: "What's striking about this piece is that it broke new ground. Len Cooper taught us something we did not know."

EXCERPT

I returned to Washington, wondering whether my grandfather's story was nothing but talk, a campfire tale embellished by bitterness and marinated by superstition, a myth that became real over time and retelling. I began to visit the Library of Congress manuscript division, asking for files on servitude in America after the Civil War....Finally, a librarian brought me another cart of yellowed documents. It was labeled "peonage." I hadn't seen that word before.

The first sheet was unlike the others I had been reading. There was nothing official about it. It wasn't typed. It had no letterhead. It was in laborious longhand, so unschooled as to be nearly unintelligible. Beneath it was a pile of 20 more just like it.

Beneath that were a dozen more piles.

Hours passed. Twice, the librarian returned to ask me if I was okay.

I suspect the Library of Congress research room doesn't get many large black men who sit there, crying.

LEN COOPER is currently working as a freelance writer in the Washington, D.C. area where he has published extensively on a broad range of topics in The Washington Post. He also lectures on topics concerning racial strife in America and blacks in Israel. In addition to publishing scores of articles in The Washington Post, Cooper has also published his writing in The Louisville Courier Journal, The Oregonian and The Los Angeles Times. The author has lived in Israel and traveled extensively throughout the Middle East, writing articles and reporting news for The Middle East Television News Network in Jerusalem.

IRENE SEGE

"A MOTHER'S SECRET, A DAUGHTER'S SEARCH"

THE BOSTON GLOBE

SECOND PLACE *Sege chronicled the ordeal of Gerry Cummins, which began in 1961 after she was raped by a black man and became pregnant. For more than three decades, no one in Cummins' family but her husband knew about the assault in an alley. Then two years ago, Barbara Williams, the adopted daughter of a white Minnesota couple, located her birthmother. The judges called Sege's account "a powerful lesson on the emotional impact of the civil rights movement, trying to come to terms with rape, the trauma of living a lie and the illogic of well-intentioned adoption programs."*

EXCERPT In 1983, Williams began to search for her birthmother....Soon she received a letter from the Massachusettes Department of Social Services. It confirmed what she already knew, that her birthmother was white. It also contained the startling news that she was the child of a rape.

"I remember it like it was yesterday," Williams says. "By the time I was done with the letter, all I could do was cry."

BOB BATZ, JR.

"LIVE AND TELL"

THE PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

THIRD PLACE *You've probably never heard of Lillian Allen, a Pittsburg beautician who has packed two lifetimes' worth of experiences into her 88 years. Bob Batz makes the reader appreciate the indomitable spirit of a woman who not only survived times that stymied many blacks, but managed to thrive. Allen "has attitude and Batz captured that expertly," the judges wrote. "When you were done with his piece, there was only one thing you wanted to do -- get on a plane, fly to Pittsburg, sit down with Lillian and beg for more."*

EXCERPT "She was born when driving meant a horse and wagon. Yet, at nearly 88, she still has that, well, sexiness that emanates like Chanel No.5 from photos of her in her voluptuous 30s. She loves to recall how a Gambian diplomat, upon meeting her, asked her to make love and become his second wife — and she was 67 then."

STAFF

“THE RACE QUESTION”

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

FIRST PLACE

In a compelling five-part series, the staff of the Pittsburg Post-Gazette tackled the most explosive and painful topic confronting its region — the yawning gulf of distrust and bitterness between blacks and whites. While it rankled some readers, it was a story that cried out to be reported in a community electrified over the previous year by the brutal death of a young African-American man while in the hands of police, community disquiet at public housing plans in white suburbs and ugly racial undercurrents in debates about city school integration. The more than 40 reporters, editors, photographers, graphic artists and copy editors involved in the project reached for every reporting tool at their disposal, from complex computer databases to tracking down alumni. The result is a series that is “timely, substantial, focused and very well done,” NABJ judges wrote.

EXCERPT

Almost a quarter of all blacks in the six-county Pittsburg region live in publicly subsidized homes.

More than a third of the city’s black residents have the same acutely limited choice.

And segregation abounds in mostly black or white public housing projects.

That pattern, fostered for years by government policy, has been sustained by both blacks and whites who, when given the choice, often elect to live where their neighbors are members of their own race.

Because most public housing is set apart — often on hills remote from the general population and business districts — the segregation is out of sight.

”Most people are clueless that Pittsburg is one of the most segregated cities in the nation, especially in public housing,” said Stanley Lowe, who manages the city’s public housing.

To know these facts is to know a great deal about segregation that is so severe and so buttressed by government programs that some are referring to it as Pittsburg’s apartheid.

JENNIFER E. SMITH, JANET E. WILLIAMS

"CASUALTIES OF WAR: HOW OUR FAILING DRUG POLICIES VICTIMIZE BLACKS"

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR, and THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS

SECOND PLACE

The Star and The News spent eight months investigating the way police, prosecutors and politicians wage the war on drugs in Indianapolis. The series shows that these tactics have put thousands behind bars, mostly black men and the poor, and turned the inner city into a battlefield. Yet none of these strategies has halted the spread of drug use or helped catch those whose money insulates them from justice — affluent suburban addicts and dealers, most of them white. The newspapers set out to determine just how police enforce drug control policies in the county, including the type of tactics used, where police and prosecutors concentrated their efforts and whether law enforcement was making a dent in the local drug problem. Wrote NABJ judges: "Through the eyes of neighborhood residents, police and recovering users, Smith and Williams gave a detailed look at how and why the war against drugs hasn't gained any ground."

EXCERPT

Marion County's war on drugs is waged almost exclusively in poor neighborhoods, its targets overwhelmingly young and black.

The battlefields are in a few besieged blocks of Indianapolis' largest black neighborhoods, even though drug addicts and dealers are everywhere.

As in another ill-fated war, Vietnam, this campaign was launched with few clear objectives and little understanding of the chameleonlike enemy who constantly adapts his tactics to stay one step ahead of law enforcement.

The generals of this war fight back with tough talk, but they do little to reverse the tide of drugs flowing into the community.

Thus, this war continues to escalate, claiming a generation of young black men who are locked up in startling numbers while many white suburban dealers and users elude punishment.

And as in Vietnam, millions of dollars are pumped into this war machine every year with few tangible results.

DOUGLAS STRUCK

"DC SCHOOLS: LEARNING THE HARD WAY"

THE WASHINGTON POST

THIRD PLACE

This compelling project examines problems with the special education programs in District Schools, revealing how some parents have sued to have their children sent to private schools at the school district's expense. Wrote NABJ judges: "Struck took a close look at how the District's failing policy on educating special needs students and how local lawyers are profiting from the experience. Struck also saw a trend: affluent white parents are more likely to get results., while the children of poor black parents who can't afford the legal fees often wait years for help as their children fall further behind."

EXCERPT

Willie Williamson was not so fortunate. He was declared in need of special education in 1984, while in kindergarten. When he was 10, the school system did its only reevaluation of Willie and put him in ungraded classes at Fletcher Johnson Junior High School for three years.

"They wrote him off," said advocate Opalack, who has taken on Willie's case. By 18, he had been socially promoted tothe 10th grade, although he could not read or write.

An aunt, Cynthia Savage, took guardianship of Willie in 1994 and requested his folder from the schools. It was a thin affair with only a few papers.

"They didn't even know there was a Willie Williamson," Savage said.

Willie's neighborhood is a tough one. On the street outside his mother's apartment, a white chalk figure outlines the final pose of the latest shooting victim.

One day this winter, Willie huddled on the couch of his mother's apartment, a walk-up with a broken lock and bare walls dimly splashed by the light of a bare bulb. As always, Willie wore a thick Army jacket over his thin frame. He is wary, says little and often hides in a closet. He smiled broadly at Opalack but erupted in a cursing rage when his mother implied that he was slow.

In 12 years of school, Willie said, he remembered only one teacher who took an interest in him. "She was the only one that said he wasn't the worst in the class," explained his mother, Dorothy Williamson, who relinquished guardianship because her sister was better able to cope with the complexities of Willie's case.

"I'm not saying that all of the problems that occurred in Willie's life are the responsibility of the school system," his aunt said. "But even if you have a disability, you have a right to learn, a right to achieve goals, even small goals. Willie never had the chance."

ERNIE SUGGS

"FIGHTING TO SURVIVE"

THE HERALD-SUN

FIRST PLACE

At the turn of the 21st century, black colleges have largely weathered the blows. But in chronicling the successes and struggles of the past, Suggs projects the future — noting that many of the historically black colleges and universities will have to plan smartly or even reinvent themselves to survive in the next century. Suggs spent months on this eight-day series, including visits to 30 colleges in six different states and it paid off in readers interest: The Herald-Sun had to print extra copies to meet the demand. A World Wide Web site on the site received feedback from all over the country. "This series looks at the plight of the historically black colleges from several different vantage points, giving the reader a clearer understanding of the forces impacting those institutions," NABJ judges wrote.

EXCERPT

Kelvin Thompson is a natural-born entertainer. Funny, quirky, the life of any party.

But there's pain behind the Fayetteville State University sophomore's easy smile.

"When I was coming up in school, it was always 'white people first,' " Thompson said. "They never let me be in the school play, although I was the best actor."

Thompson was one of the top students at Charlotte Harding University High School, but rarely was taken seriously by his peers or instructors, he said.

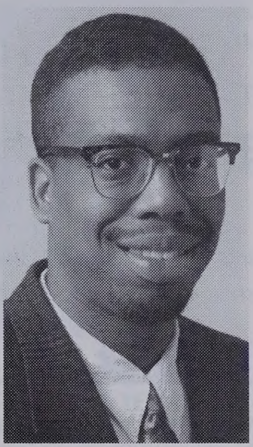
"I was never voted 'Most Likely to Succeed' I was always 'Most Likely to be on *Star Search*' or something," Thompson said. "To them I was just somebody to sing you a song or dance you a dance. Mr. Bojangles."

The group of FSU students who heard Thompson's story sat silently.

Perhaps they felt his pain — thinking about titles they never had, chances they never got and goals they never achieved in their predominantly white high schools. Wondering about the titles, chances and goals that they may not have gotten at a predominantly white college.

Or perhaps they remembered why they chose FSU, an historically black college — and with it the chances to become editor of the school newspaper, drum major of the marching band, captain of the debate team or president of the student body.

So in a sense, Thompson said, FSU saved him.



ERNIE SUGGS has been a staff writer at The Herald-Sun (Durham, N.C.) since 1990. Since that time, he has won several awards, among them the Education Writers Association fellowship which he used to write this series, four North Carolina Press Association awards and a North Carolina Black Publishers Association award for journalism.

Suggs is a 1985 graduate of North Carolina Central University, where he was editor-and-chief of the campus newspaper for two years.

ANNIE NAKAO

"CARING FOR KIDS"

THE SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

SECOND PLACE

In this occasional series, Nakao explores the challenges of providing decent child care for homeless and lower-income families. Many of these children are especially at risk for illness and developmental delays in language, personal and social development and physical coordination. Good child care can offer them hope where there was none. "The series demonstrated the complexities of homelessness, particularly through the eyes of young children and highlighted the struggles and small triumphs of their parents," NABJ judges wrote.

EXCERPT

Sister Ann Maureen of Holy Family Day Home recalled a two-year-old who refused to take off her shoes during nap time for three months.

"Why? Because she knew anything you took off at the shelter, you can lose," she said.

Anxiety permeates their small lives.

"It's sort of free floating," said Molly Chan, a therapist at Homeless Children's Network in San Francisco, which provides therapy to homeless kids.

"They don't come out and say it, but they're anxious."

At TLC, homeless parent Deirdre Keane has seen it in her daughter, Tierney, 4.

Keane and her three young children became homeless after she left an abusive marriage a year ago.

"When Tierney first came here, she was bouncing off the walls," said Keane.

"She was very scattered. You just couldn't contain her."

The family found housing at Lifeline Ministries Women's Shelter in the Mission. And after 10 months at TLC, the changes in Tierney are dramatic.

"Now she can sit for an hour painting a dragon," Keane said. "She also loves working on puzzles."

BRIAN ROGAL

"DEATH COMES BY ACCIDENT IN POOR, BLACK NEIGHBORHOODS"

THE CHICAGO REPORTER

THIRD PLACE

Rogal set out to shed light on the risks faced by low-income children which had previously gone unacknowledged by the media. His extensive study of Chicago Health Deapartment records revealed that accidental deaths are killing African-American children at a far greater rate than whites or Latinos. Slowly, patterns emerged, leading Rogal to conclude that any successful prevention effort should focus on accidental suffocations of infants, fire deaths among toddlers and pedestrian injuries among children ages five to nine. Wrote NABJ judges: "Juvenile homicides grab most of the media attention, but Rogal in his disturbing story tells us about the alarming number of black children who die from unintentional injuries....It should be a call to arms for us to make our homes and communities safer for our young ones."

EXCERPT

July 28, 1995 started out as one of the best days in the life of 10-year-old Clarence Lewis.

He was so small for his age his nickname was 'Little Bit,' yet he had just won six medals at the annual Wells Summer Olympic Games, including the top trophy.

...As they headed back to their home in the Ida B. Wells public housing development, however, Clarence's 14-year-old cousin, Patrick Frazier, told him to take the 31st Street bridge rather than run across Lake Shore Drive with Patrick and the older boys.

"He was going over the bridge, but he changed his mind when he saw the older boys crossing the road," Clark said. "He runs so fast maybe he thought he could make it."

But as Clarence neared the median strip, for some reason he turned back and was struck by a northbound car.

Eyewitnesses said he would not have been if he had kept going. Clarence died at Wyler Children's Hospital before his mother could get there.

TERRY GREENE STERLING

"JOE PARHAM STANDS UP"

PHOENIX NEW TIMES

FIRST PLACE

Joe Parham was a tireless psychologist, on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. He even met clients at restaurants and on street corners. For two decades, Parham's record remained unblemished. Then something happened to change Parham's life. People began complaining that his behavior was bizarre, leading the state psychologists board to indefinitely suspend his license. But in her meticulously detailed feature, Sterling revealed that the case against Parham was as complex and full of subtleties as the man himself. In particular, Sterling convincingly questions whether racial bias played a role in the allegations againt Parham. Wrote NABJ judges: "Sterling's piece makes us understand the plight of a man who tried, often clumsily and without direction, to do the right thing in his life, and who refused to give up. Joe Parham's flawed efforts at helping mentally-disturbed people while his own sanity is in question are worthy of recognition."

EXCERPT

He grew up on the streets of a Michigan factory town, and despite his advanced degree, he's never abandoned a certain streetwise world view. But he does not look like the sort who would be safe on the mean streets. He suffers from arthritis, his neck is stiff. He moves his entire body to turn his head and walks with a slight limp. He wears a big wristwatch trimmed in gold and turquoise along with several gold chains, all payments made by a jeweler in exchange for psychological services.

He's not a particularly large man, but Parham once played football for Arizona State University. Later, he wrote his doctoral dissertation on racism in the athletic department. From that moment on, controversy always seemed to follow him, in one way or another.

An African American, Parham has long been an active east Mesa Republican, and he once served on the staff of impeached former governor Evan Mecham, defending the man known across the nation for rescinding a state holiday honoring Martin Luther King Jr. and advocating a book for an official celebration that used the word pickaninny.

Parham continues to work in the Republican party, but he seems to be too embarrassed to ask for political help in dealing with his current predicament.

It is an odd one.

A New Times writer since 1986, **TERRY GREENE STERLING** has received numerous local and nationalism journalism awards. She was twice named Virg Hill Newsperson of the Year, which is Arizona's most prestigious journalism award. Sterling has two children and two grandchildren and lives with her husband in Phoenix. She is a graduate of Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism.

KAYLOIS HENRY

"BISHOP JAKES IS READY . . . ARE YOU?"

DALLAS OBSERVER

SECOND PLACE

During the past few years, a multiracial Pentecostal movement has swept the country and at the forefront is a black preacher, Bishop T.D. Jakes. Henry first heard of Jakes on the street and set out to profile him, exploring why his message has enraptured so many Christians— particularly black women. "Henry offers a stunning portrait of a charismatic preacher who has become controversial because of his unorthodox methods and flamboyant style," wrote NABJ judges.

EXCERPT Tonight the shoes of Bishop T.D. Jakes are a three-toned reptilian affair. They are dark grey around the sides and white on top; their laces are speckled prominently with red. Jakes himself is a big man, tall and wide, with a booming voice and perspiring presence that is vibrating through every square inch of Potter's House in southwest Dallas. It isn't surprising that the worshippers who fill the church are giving him their complete attention.

What is perhaps surprising is the attention Jake himself has given his outfit: Exquisite charcoal-gray suit, red-and-white pinstriped shirt, red patterned tie that so well points up the laces on his sensational shoes. The Pentecostal ministry is an emotional one in which the personal and spiritual merge, and Jakes' dapper wardrobe—particularly his footwear— may represent religious self-expression raised to an art form. The shoes may also be a quick look into the character of Jakes himself: They are unapologetic and up-to-date.

VENISE WAGNER

"WIGGAS — SURBURBAN KIDS HIP-HOP ACROSS THE COLOR LINE"

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

THIRD PLACE

By hanging out with white and black kids who were attracted to rap and hip-hop culture and drawing on a historical and literary perspective that includes the Harlem Renaissance and Norman Mailer's 'The White Negro,' Wagner cast light on the ways American culture continually crosses over as it grapples with race. The story "covers a compelling social trend with wit and serious analysis," wrote NABJ judges.

EXCERPT People certainly react. Teachers and parents at Ygnacio Valley High in Concord flipped as they watched a mostly white student body gryrating to the in-your-face lyrics of KRS One at a school dance last academic year. Only after students reassured staff at a frantic faculty meeting, called afterwards to discuss tthe problem," were teachers satisfied that the music posed no threat.

Yet fear is the exact emotion these young people want to evoke.

Creating that fear made Rogers, then a scrawny kid with a Ron Howard face, feel powerful.

"It scares people," Rogers says. "....A lot of white Americans are very scared of black people. Once people see (white kids) hanging around black people, people are scared of them, too."

PATRICIA SMITH

A COLLECTION OF COLUMNS

THE BOSTON GLOBE

FIRST PLACE

It all began with several plaintive phone messages from a railroad maintenance worker at the Massachusettes Bay Transportation Authority. "No one will listen to me," Craig Dias said. "No one else will listen to me. I've called everyone. Please." Smith's first column detailed the racially abusive behavior toward minority employees at MBTA. Ultimately, Smith challenged officials to correct abuses. In the process, she endured some herself —from readers who questioned the veracity of the personal stories contained in her columns from those who called to threaten that she would be raped or run over by a bus on her way to work. But justice came: In March, the state attorney general's office confirmed that there was a pattern of racial discrimination at MBTA and announced that by agreement it would end under penalty of law. "All along Smith demonstrated a courage rarely exhibited today and, in the end, got results for the ordinary people whose calls for help had fallen on deaf ears," wrote NABJ judges.

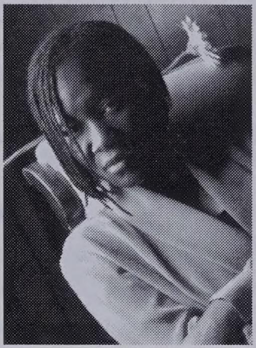
EXCERPT

The Massachusettes Bay Transportation Authority is home to the Red Line, the Green Line, the Blue Line, the Orange Line and always the company line. Plagued and seemingly perplexed by charges of racial discrimination, MBTA suits insist that the organization, striving to be all that it can be, is doggedly plodding the long, hard road toward a day when all of its employees, both black and white, can toil in perfect harmoneee.

That would be a lie. For all it's we-are-the-world blustering, the MBTA can no longer deny a climate of hush-mouthed tolerance strangely reminiscent of the antebellum South.

I know because I've seen the pictures. My favorite is an obscenely overwrought caricature of a black man, complete with swollen lips and flaring nostrils, which was pinned — just for yucks— on a Green Line office bulletin board last month. In case you MBTA honchos are keeping count, that is exactly seven months after then-acting general manager Robert Prince conceded a backwater racial attitude in the Engineering and Maintenance Department and vowed 'monumental changes.'

According to Craig Dias, the employee who sent me the picture along with a pleading missive, there have been no changes, monumental or otherwise.



Award-winning journalist, poet, playwright and performer, **PATRICIA SMITH** joined the Boston Globe in 1990 as an arts critic. She later reported on the first Urban Peace and Justice Summit, the uprising following the sentencing of Rodney King's attackers, the Clinton inauguration and the first all-inclusive elections in South Africa. In 1994, she became a Metro columnist. Since joining the Globe, Smith has been nominated for Pulitzers in international reporting, criticism and commentary. She has also been honored by the National Association of Black Journalists for commentary and for her work from South Africa.

MICHAEL WILBON

A COLLECTION OF COLUMNS

THE WASHINGTON POST

SECOND PLACE

One of the few black sports columnists appearing regularly in a major newspaper, Wilbon also writes about issues that do not concern athletes and competition. This collection includes writings on the loss of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and others to an untimely death, a poignant account of Muhammad Ali's lighting of the torch to begin the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games and a column chiding those who pass up a college education for the NBA. Wilbon "writes with passion and conviction, calls our attention to the spiraling values system plaguing modern day sports," NABJ judges wrote. "His work forces each reader to sit up and take stock."

EXCERPT

ATLANTA — It's all relative, what's really big. Hype has made us think everything is big, when it isn't. You see something like the Dream Team with its special security force and its worldwide appeal and you think, man, what could be bigger than that? Then you see the answer, the only answer.

Muhammad Ali.

Athletes make highlights, Ali makes you genuflect.

It's been 36 years since he was an Olympian, it's been 14 1/2 years since his last prizefight. Yet there's not a single person on earth whose very presence could have elicited the response that Ali did Friday night when he stepped out of the shadows and back into our lives to light the Olympic cauldron. There's no adequate title for him anymore, no label or short description that adequately describes him or his importance to the universe. Where do we start when we try to explain him to our grandchildren? That he was a boxer? Right. He's Ali. And strangely enough, we all understand that. It's description enough.

Don't think for a moment Bill Clinton was the only one teary-eyed when Ali took the torch from Janet Evans.

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SHEEBA WHEELER

A COLUMN: BREAKING AWAY FROM THE CYCLE

THE DENVER POST

THIRD PLACE

Wheeler wrote compellingly in the first-person about her childhood spent on welfare, the self-hate and sadness it engendered, and how she found the strength to break the cycle. Wrote NABJ judges: "Many journalists tend to use first-person experiences in their columns and essays, but few pull it off without sounding self-serving. To the contrary, Wheeler opened our eyes with a heart-wrenching story that catapulted her to the front ranks of commentary writers this year. In the process, she wrote a story filled with larger lessons about life for all of us. Don't leave this convention until you read it."

EXCERPT

My mother gave birth to me a few months shy of her 18th birthday. My father never married her and never paid child support. With only a high school diploma and limited support from family members—many already collecting welfare—my mother began receiving a government check. That was her decision. But it forever shadowed who I was to become.

We struggled for everything, sometimes right down to the basics of existence.

My most vivid memories are of times when I had to wipe myself with a washcloth because we didn't have enough money for toilet paper. If there was any way we could make a dime last a week, we'd do it — even if that meant sleeping on the floor of my grandmother's one-bedroom apartment in California, scrounging for space among snoring aunts and uncles.

My mother would tell me how her dreams of becoming a police officer were cut short when she had me, how she could have gotten off welfare if she hadn't had to support me. Guilt replaced the youthful innocence of my childhood.

EARL OFARI HUTCHINSON

COLLECTION OF COLUMNS

FIRST PLACE

While much has been written about the plight of black men in prison, the increasing incarceration of black women has received little attention. Hutchinson's syndicated series, which ran in more than 100 black newspapers, explored the depth of this crisis confronting black America. It details the reasons for the sharp rise, the destabilizing economic and social consequences the trend has had in black communities and solutions for combatting it. Hutchinson's columns were "insightful and thoroughly reported, illuminating an often-ignored crisis that touches many African-Americann families," NABJ judges wrote.

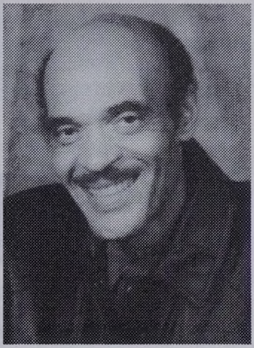
EXCERPT

When a good friend recently told me that her sister has been sentenced to three years in prison for theft, my first thought was: "Who will take care of her four children?" She read my thoughts, shrugged and said with a weary and exasperated voice that she and another relative would take care of them. It would be an enormous financial and emotional sacrifice, and require a drastic adjustment in her life. The alternative of placing the children in a foster home or institution was unthinkable to her.

The children were lucky. They had a loving relative who could soften the trauma of separation, minimize the disruption of their lives, and provide familial love and comfort.

Their mother is one of 55,000 women currently in state and federal prisons. An additional 50,000 are in local jails. In the past decade drug use, the sharp reduction in, or elimination of, welfare benefits by many states, and father absenteeism have driven more women to economic destitution, the streets — and prison. Nationally, three out of one hundred black women are in prison, on probation or parole. For the first time in American history black women are being imprisoned at nearly the same rate as white men.

Unlike men, more than eighty percent of imprisoned women are single parents. While they do their time inside, their more than 1 million children do time outside.



Author and syndicated columnist **EARL OFARI HUTCHINSON** has lectured at numerous universities and is a frequent guest on radio and television discussion programs. His writings have appeared in The Chicago Tribune, The Los Angeles Times, Emerge magazines and numerous other publications. His books include "Beyond O.J.: Race, Sex and Class Lessons in America." Hutchinson has a masters degree in humanities from California State University and a doctorate in social studies from Pacific Western University in Los Angeles.

WILEY A. HALL

COLLECTION OF COLUMNS

THE BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN

SECOND PLACE

Hall's columns includes writings on the ongoing debate over black identity and its distortion by the "gang-banging generation," and the propensity of the media and so-called experts to overfocus on the problems of blacks to the exclusion of what ails white America. Hall "brings a hard-hitting, thought-provoking perspective that can be touching, funny, outrageous, defiant — or all of the above at once," wrote the nominating editors at the Afro-American. "He is not afraid to challenge either the comfortable prejudices of the mainstream power elite or the sacred cows of the African-American community."

EXCERPT

FBI officials said this week that a "white American male" is wanted for questioning in connection with the planting of a pipe bomb that took two lives last weekend in Atlanta's Centennial Park during the Olympic games.

White American males have been arrested recently and charged with stockpiling weapons and explosive in Georgia and Seattle. White American males barricaded themselves on a farm in Montana and defied federal authorities for months. Two white American males were arrested and charged with the fatal bombing of a federal office building in Oklahoma. White American males were involved in shoot-outs and/or barricades at Ruby Ridge and Waco, Texas.

And although no suspects have been identified in the probable bombing of TWA Flight 800 and although that bombing doesn't really seem to be their style, white American males have not been eliminated as suspects in that tragedy either.

....In light of all the above, I suggest we consider taking the precautions our society often takes when members of a specific ethnic group attack the serenity of Fortress America: mass arrests, preventive detention, increased surveillance, the development of personality profiles that help us identify troublesome suspects before they commit a crime.

……

WAYNE DAWKINS

COLLECTION OF COLUMNS

THE COURIER-POST (Camden, N.J.)

THIRD PLACE

Dawkins' winning collection includes writings on Louis Farrakhan and his ties to Africa; the good and the bad of how blacks are represented in mainstream films and the impact of the Supreme Court Decision regarding congressional redistricting to promote the election of minorities.

EXCERPT

Yes, movie-making is currently a best-of-times, worst-of-times situation for blacks. It is a phenomenon which cannot be simply explained by alleging racism.

Economics are a force. Independent filmmakers emerged in the last decade and they try to show a rich variety of African-American life: urban, suburban, rural, poor, well-to-do.

But the "indies" face roadblocks. They have freedom to tell their stories if they have the will — but few places to show them. Hollywood controls studios and most of the movie screens. It is called vertical integration of the industry. A monopoly.

The 25 percent of the movie market which is black needs to recognize that. If most of you African Americans are content with mostly pathological images of yourselves from Hollywood, continue to go the movies.

If not, vote with your dollars. Hold out and demand a varied menu of images.

DEBORAH BARFIELD, FORD FESSENDEN and JEANNE DUGAN COOPER

"RACE AND MORTGAGES"

NEWSDAY

FIRST PLACE

Five years after banks were forced to open up their records to scrutiny under the federal Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, these three Newsday reporters found that race discrimimination plays a big role in who gets a home loan on Long Island. Barfield, Fessenden and Cooper fanned out through neighborhoods all over the region, knocked on doors and coaxed residents to tell them about their difficulties obtaining home loans. The upshot, the reporters found: Blacks were three times more likely than whites to be denied a loan.

"Employing the dashed dreams of prospective minority homeowners to tell the story, this project not only affected readers, it also produced self-examination and much-needed change in Long Island's banking industry," NABJ judges wrote.

EXCERPT How can discrimination, which lenders have always denied and now are making extra efforts to avoid, continue? Experts say it's part of the subjective nature of the loan approval process.

It was that kind of treatment that derailed Clayton Hidson when he sought a mortgage. A Central Islip high school teacher for 25 years, he said he walked away from a $214,000 condo purchase in an all-white Northport neighborhood after nearly a year of being stalled by a Huntington mortgage company. He had planned to rent out the Medford Home where he had lived for 15 years.

Hudson and his fiancee, a human resources director at the same job for six years, said the company wasn't quibbling with their credit histories or debt burden. The representative, he said, just didn't seem to believe their combined income exceeded $130,000, no matter how many times they proved it.

The lender, he said, finally agreed to grant the loan, but there were two new conditions: a 35 percent down payment, instead of the traditional 20 percent and a higher interest rate. "I got three-quarters of the way through and said I don't need this aggravation," Hudson said. "It blew my mind."

DEBORAH BARFIELD joined Newsday in March 1996 and covers social issues on Long Island. Prior to joining Newsday, she was a Washington correspondent for Knight-Ridder Newspapers and a reporter for the Providence Journal-Bulletin. A graduate of the College of Journalism at the University of Maryland, she lives in Mellville, New York.

FORD FESSENDEN joined Newsday in October 1986 as a reporter. He is now a specialist in computer-assisted reporting. In 1994, he was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on breast cancer. A native of Columbus, Nebraska, Fessenden is a graduate of the University of Texas.

JEANNE DUGAN COOPER was a reporter on the business staff of Newsday and New York Newsday from 1990 to 1996, when she left to become a department editor at Business Week. At Newsday, she spent several years covering the economy and the banking industry.

DOROTHY J. GAITER

"HOW WILLIE L. WILSON WENT FROM POVERTY TO BLACK PHILANTHROPY"

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

SECOND PLACE

This is a tale of Wilson's rise from doing menial day-labor jobs to becoming successful owner of McDonald's franchises and a wealthy creator of televised gospel music. Gaiter tirelessly tracked down family members, friends and business associates of Wilson, not all of whom had flattering things to say. "What emerges," wrote Wall Street Journal Managing Editor Paul E. Steiger "is a complex portrait of a complex man who, despite racism, personal problems and the tragic loss of a son to gang violence, has parlayed grit, hard work and street smarts into business success that defies stereotypes."

EXCERPT

So, after praying on it, Mr. Wilson decided there was only one route to own his own franchise: He would just call McDonald's founder Ray Kroc. "Three or four times I picked up the telephone to call Ray Kroc and put it down again," he recalls. Finally, he made the call and a secretary asked why she should let a total stranger speak to her famous boss.

Mr. Wilson briefly gave her his background and added, "You don't know me but I might be the person driving down the street who helps to fix your flat tire one night. I need help."

Mr. Wilson didn't get to talk to Mr. Kroc, but he did get an appointment to see him. But when he learned that the McDonald's chairman would be at a shareholders' meeting sooner, he went. "I shook a lot of white folks' hands to get to Mr. Kroc," he says. "I told him that the only thing I had was my integrity and that I was a hard worker. Well, he stopped and looked at me and said, 'You mean more to me than anybody here. Come on, let's go.' "

CHUCK PHILIPS

"THE RAP MUSIC INDUSTRY UNDER FIRE"

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

THIRD PLACE

In his collection of stories on the rap industry, Philips profiled rap critic Dolores Tucker and the tense battle between her and rap mogul Suge Knight. He also revealed that Knight had given a recording contract to the daughter of the prosecutor handling his assault case, triggering state and local investigations and the prosecutor's dismissal. And when Tupac Shakur was killed in Las Vegas and Notorious B.I.G. was shot to death in Los Angeles, Philips broke stories about the murder investigations. As always, Philips went directly to the people in the rap business, a path sometimes not even taken by the police themselves. In nominating Philips, editors at The Los Angeles Times wrote: "His insightful and often surprising work has transformed the direction, focus and depth of rap business coverage, chronicling the fast-changing world from the street to the suite."

EXCERPT

Two witnesses to the slaying of Tupac Shakur told The Times this week that they saw the assailants who shot the rap star but have never been asked by police to view pictures of possible suspects.

The two men say they informed Las Vegas investigators of their observations just hours after Shakur was gunned down Sept. 7 at a busy intersection near the Las Vegas Strip. The men were in the vehicle directly behind the car in which Shakur was attacked.

The statements underscore the wide gulf between Las Vegas police, who say they have been stymied by uncooperative witnesses, and Shakur's family and associates, who say police bungled the investigation by mistreating witnesses and failing to contact them for further interviews. Both men said they would cooperate with police if asked to identify possible suspects.

....Las Vegas police Thursday disputed the witnesses' account of what they told police the night of the shooting. But they said their statements could lead to a major breakthrough in the investigation. They immediately placed a call to one witness and asked the Times for help in contacting the other.

GILBERT A. LEWTHWAITE, GREGORY KANE

"WITNESS TO SLAVERY"

THE BALTIMORE SUN

FIRST PLACE

Faced with denials that slavery exists in the Sudan, including from the Rev. Louis Farrakhan and the Sudan government, Lewthwaite and Kane ventured illegally into war-torn southern Sudan to get the truth. In an oddysey that concluded with the purchase of freedom for two young slaves, the reporters brought back irrefutable proof that slavery does exist and transformed the debate from an abstraction to a shocking reality.

EXCERPT

MANYIEL, Sudan — In the shade of the mango tree deep in the African bush, near the fish, fruit and vegetable market, we count the money one last time.

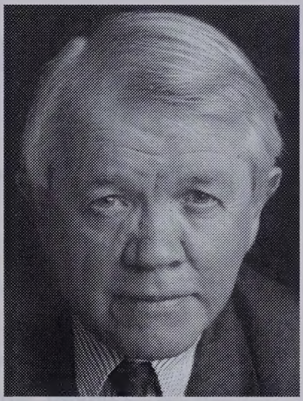
It is a 2-inch thick stack of Sudanese bills, worth $1,000 — a large sum in a poor region of the poorest country on the world's poorest continent. It would buy every commodity in the market. But that's not what we're here for.

We are here to buy a slave.

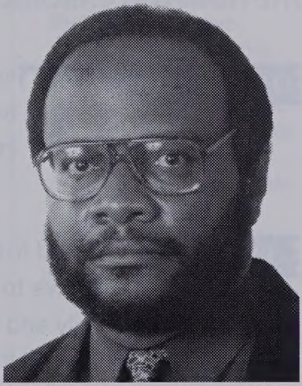
Before us, waiting abjectly on the baking, barren ground, is a sight to chill the human heart: a dozen young boys, their bodies caked with dust, their eyes downcast.

If we were Sudanese slaveholders, we might use such children for herding or for household chores in return for nothing but the crumbs from our table. We might give them Arabic names and convert them to Islam. We might use a girl for sexual pleasure, perhaps as a wife.

But we are not Sudanese Arabs. We are visitors — a longtime foreign correspondent who is white, and a Baltimore columnist who is African-American and on his first trip abroad — and our mission is not to perpetrate slavery but to expose it.



GILBERT A. LEWTHWAITE was born and educated in England. He is a veteran foreign correspondent, having served in London and Paris since joining the Sun in 1971. His assignments at the Sun have taken him to the Middle East, Cuba, Grenada, Haiti, Central America and Canada. Lewthwaite is presently the Pentagon correspondent in the Washington Bureau. Before joining the Sun. he worked for the London Daily Mail in Moscow, Rome and New Delhi.



GREGORY KANE began his career at the Sun as a freelance writer in 1984 when he wrote an op-ed piece on Martin Luther King Jr. He had contributed hundreds of articles before he was hired as a full-time staff writer in 1993.

A columnist at the Sun, Kane is a 1996 winner of the Headliners Award from the Press Club of Atlantic City, was announced the 1996 winner for outstanding column writing by the Maryland chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and was named Baltimore's best metro columnist by Baltimore magazine.

Kane graduated seventh in his class at Baltimore City College and is also a graduate of the Broadcasting Institute in Maryland, where he studied newswriting and reporting.

STEPHEN BUCKLEY

COLLECTION OF STORIES

THE WASHINGTON POST

SECOND PLACE *This collection of eight stories gleaned from Buckley's reportage on sub-Saharan Africa includes an intimate look at the problem of spousal abuse through one woman's experience, a window on the life of the nomads of Mali, and an examination of how Africa's traditional reverence for the elderly is being disrupted by disease and the demands of urbanization.*

EXCERPT NAIROBI, Kenya -- After more than 30 years of being threatened, chased, slapped, thrown, punched, kicked, choked, whipped and stepped on by her husband, Agnes summoned the strength last winter to taken an unusual step for an abused African wife.

She left.

More unusual is that she found solace in a home in Nairobi that serves battered women. It is the first such shelter in Kenya, where spousal abuse -- as in the rest of sub-Saharan Africa -- is a not-so-hidden shame.

From Sudan to South Africa, from Mail to Mozambique, spousal abuse is among sub-Saharan Africa's best known and least-discussed secrets, a problem far more pervasive but much less addressed than other social ills, such as AIDS.

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TONY FREEMANTLE

"CRYING FOR JUSTICE"

THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE

THIRD PLACE *This four-part series focused on Rwanda, South Africa, El Salvador and Guatemala and the people who are left to struggle in the aftermath of horrible war crimes, largely unaided by the Western commissions and tribunals erected to pass judgement and punish the perpetrators.*

EXCERPT The sad truth is that somewhere in his heart, Emanual Murangiyra will have to find room for forgiveness. He will have to find a way to accept the fact that most of those who bludgeoned, hacked, shot and tortured to death his entire family and as many as 1 million other Rwandans in a 100-day ordgy in 1994 will go free.

The truth is that across the world, millions of people traumatized by such crimes against humanity in the 50 years since the end of World War II have had to face the same repugnant reality.

From Rwanda to Cambodia, from Uganda to El Salvador, from Bosnia to Guatemala, they have been subjected to incomprehensible cruelty, and what they learned from the experience is that for the practitioners of evil, the last half-century has been a golden age of impunity.

MITCH ALBOM

'DREAMS DEFERRED—WHEN HOME ISN'T SO SWEET"

DETROIT FREE PRESS

FIRST PLACE

As part of a series on unsung Detroit area athletes, Albom profiled teenage basketball player Deshawn Chatman and his courageous struggle against gangs, drugs and a tumultuous home life. Chatman, an erstwhile foster child whose crack-addicted mother once burned the house down, drew the sympathy of readers, who called in droves to help. The Free Press set up a fund, and more than $3,000 — plus clothing and furniture and a new apartment— has been raised for Deshawn. NABJ judges were similarly moved. "Forceful and compelling, Albom's story hits you in the gut with its honesty and compassion," they wrote.

EXCERPT Deshawn Chatman was tired of watching his mother do crack, tired of the smell, the little white pellets, the way she lit up from their four-burner stove in their kitchen. He was tired of finding her incoherent on the couch, her eyes glassed over, too high to even speak to him. So one day last spring he quit the thing he loved the most, the Cooley High basketball team, and he walked the few blocks to his small, decaying red brick house on the northwest side of Detroit.

He stood on the porch, too young to shave, too young to drive, but old enough to know a drug dealer when he saw one.

And he waited for one to come.

"What do you want?" he asked the first man who showed up, a neighborhood dealer known as Maurice.

"Your mama at home?"

"Nah, she's sick."

"She's at home. Open the door."

"She's gone."

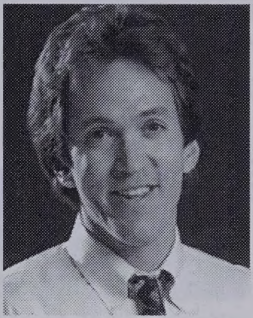
"Tell her I'm here. Tell her I got something for her."

"Why you have to sell her that stuff? Why don't you go on now, leave us alone?"

"Tell her I'm here."

"I told you, she's sick. Go away."

Day after day, he stood guard this way, running interference, straight-arming the poison. And for a while, it worked. For a while, the kid turned back dealers and junkies, leaving them shrugging. "My mama ain't here," he insisted. They were not interested in confronting the 6-foot-2 basketball player, who wore a sneer to make him tougher than his soft and sinless face suggested. For a while, it worked. For a while, he protected his mother.



MITCH ALBOM came to the Detroit Free Press in 1985 from the Sun-Sentinel in Ft. Lauderdale. He has won the Associated Press Sports Editor national column writing contest 10 times. He is the only columnist to win the award more than once. Albom works in radio and television as well as print, doing commentaries and feature reports for ESPN and serving as a panelist for that network's weekly show "The Sports Reporters." A Philadelphia native, Albom graduated from Brandeis University with a B.S. in sociology annd earned master's degrees in journalism and business administration from Columbia University.

BILL PLASCHKE

"HE WENT DOWN SWINGING"

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

SECOND PLACE *Bill Spiller did more than anyone to break down the color barrier in professional golf, but he was largely ignored by history. Spiller was primarily responsible for the elimination of the whites-only wording in the bylaws of the Professional Golfers' Association, but by that time he could no longer qualify to be a tour player himself. He died in 1988, embittered. Through interviews with his family, friends and former associates, Plaschke brought to life the driven golfer who rebelled against pro golf's exclusionary standards. The reporter "takes readers back in time and weaves a vivid picture of a talented and driven black man who refused to accept the status quo," NABJ judges wrote. "It's a story without a happy ending, but one that history demands be told."*

EXCERPT Bill Spiller fought them to the end, cursing their names in the middle of the night in the small hardwood hallway of his 122nd Street home.

Illness had deluded his mind, but not his indignation, which still covered him like a cologne used in quarts instead of drops.

Decades after golf tournaments threw him out because he was black, Spiller would jolt awake, sit up in bed, shout the names of the long-deceased people who ran those tournaments.

Sometimes he would grab his gun, stalk into the living room, wave the pistol, promise 3 a.m. revenge.

"I'll get them for this, you'll see! I'll get them!"

Bill Spiller fought them night after night, front door to back.

His wife was so worried he might mistake her for a golf official and shoot her, she ordered him moved to a convalescent home.

He died there two years later, in 1988, at 75.

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ROGER THUROW

"FLEETING FAME"

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

THIRD PLACE *Thurow took the road less travelled in his coverage of the Olympic Games last summer, and it led to Oakville, Alabama, birthplace of Jesse Owens. His story examines the town's ambivalent way of memoralizing its greatest native son. For years, the town had been content with a marker that got Owen's birthdate wrong, and a display case with a few yellowing photographs. The town managed to come up with a memorial befitting Owens' achievements only at the advent of the 1996 Olympics and only after a bitter struggle against those who felt "the time wasn't right." In the same article, Thurow also paid tribute to Alice Coachman, the first black woman to win a gold medal whose name was left out of most of the history books. "Decades after their glory days, two black Olympians are finally given their due," NABJ judges wrote. "Thurow chronicles the athletes' treatment in a way that speaks volumes about America's past and present."*

EXCERPT OAKVILLE, Ala — For once, the locals are right when they say, "You can't miss it." The birthplace of Jesse Owens, though small and poor, sticks out in the cotton fields like a swatch of polyester.

Two roads signs make it impossible to miss. One rises strong and proud above the roadside grass and thistles directing traffic whizzing down State Route 157 to turn onto County Road 203. "JESSE OWENS MEMORIAL PARK," it shouts.

The other signs sneaks up on drivers heading in the opposite direction on 203. It is hand-scrawled across a bridge spanning a parched gully. The fresh green paint, in misspelled block letters, jabs up from the gray pavement like speed bumps: "NIGERVILLE 3 MILES."

Both signs lead to Oakville, all right, but they take you to two entirely different places.

PAUL RUBIN

"WAITING TO EXHALE"

PHOENIX NEW TIMES

FIRST PLACE

Luis Sharpe had led a double life. In public, he was the star left tackle of the Phoenix Cardinals. In private, he was a desperate crack addict. In the end, he wound up in jail, convicted of possessing a crack pipe and striking a sheriff's deputy. Last spring, the ex-NFL star contacted New Times journalist Paul Rubin from the Maricopa County Jail, telling him he was ready to talk about his fall from grace publicly and unconditionally. The pair spent more than 12 hours together.

"Rubin took full advantage of Sharpes' candor and his narrative adds depth to the story and puts the athletes' problems in context," NABJ judges wrote.

EXCERPT

On and beneath the surface Luis Sharpe has been a mess. His decline has transcended the sports pages, as Valley residents shook their heads in disbelief and some disdain at his troubles.

Gaunt and hollow-eyed, Sharpe seemed a broken, pathetic shell of the 280-pound tackle who'd ruled pro-football's trenches for more than a decade. And he was.

He says he smokes crack almost daily from Christmas 1994 until this April, with a hiatus of a few months earlier this year in his home state of Michigan.

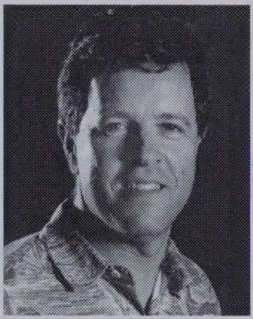
In little more than a year, he moved from his $450,000 home in Atwatukee to a Tempe apartment, to drug-infested motels on East Van Buren Street, to the back seat of a beat-up car (he'd wrecked his BMW annd Porsche), to South Phoenix alleys — where he'd sit back in the dirt with another crackhead and get high.

Along the way, he was shot during a robbery outside a Phoenix crack den. His addiction was so insidious, he says, that he returned to the den several times after the near-fatal shooting.

Sharpe landed at the Towers Jail on April 15, to await sentencing on convictions of possessing a crack pipe and striking a sheriff's deputy.

He's in the general population—"Nothing special or protective about my custody, believe me," he says. That means residing with about 45 other men in a pod built for 30. His roommate is a young black man from Los Angeles also awaiting disposition on drug charges.

Jail, of all places, seems to have done well by Sharpe. Locked up, biding his time, thinking about things, he's succeeded at keeping the hellhounds at bay.



A New Times writer since 1985, **PAUL RUBIN** has received numerous local and national journalism awards. Named Arizona journalist of the year in 1986, Rubin has also been recognized in the American Bar Association, Silver Gavel, Scripps Howard, Sigma Delta Chi and Best of the West competitions. A native of New Haven, Connecticut, Rubin graduated from the University of Arizona in 1977, with a degree in U.S. History and government.

VAN WILLIAMS

"THE GRADUATE"

THE WICHITA EAGLE

SECOND PLACE

A member of the 1980 Olympic basketball team and 13-year veteran of the NBA, former Dallas Maverick Rolando Blackman, had money and a loving family. Still, he yearned to finish the college degree he had begun so long ago. So, at 37, he decided to become a model for the youth he had urged to take education seriously and returned to classes at Kansas State. Last year, Blackman completed his bachelor of science degree in social science.

"The Graduate shows that being a black athlete and a responsible human being are not mutually exclusive," NABJ judges wrote.

EXCERPT

Blackman was sitting amongst a quick-minded anchorwoman, a crusty Dallas newspaper sports columnist and a well-coifed TV sports guy. They were discussing the merits of paying student-athletes, so that the very people who were filling the coffers of college sports could have enough money to fly home in an emergency, buy a nice sweater or take a date to dinner.

Blackman seemed comfortable. Sure, he was slightly self-conscious about the dental work he had done to fix his front teeth, but he was well-spoken and knowledgeable, his Brooklyn accent hardly noticeable. He was the one person on the panel who had lived the budget-tight struggle of a college athlete, who could speak from experience.

Yet the tack in his pocket kept sticking him; he was likely the only one on the panel without a college degree. What about the responsibility of the student-athlete to finish school? What about me?

RON THOMAS

"COLLEGE OF MARIN STAR FOUGHT BEYOND THE BASKETBALL COURT"

MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL

THIRD PLACE

In 1948, Don Barksdale, a local college star, became the first black basketball player to play on the U.S. Olympic team. As was the case with many athletes during segregation, Barksdale was frequently taunted, threatened and disrepected during his travels across the South. Nearly half a century later, Barksdale was visibly shaken when recounting a death threat he received while playing basketball in Lexington, Ky. Granted extensive interviews by Barksdale before the athlete's death in 1993, Thomas "highlighted a little-known piece of history," NABJ judges wrote. "Stellar writing generates empathy for Barksdale during his darkest days in dealing with racism."

EXCERPT

At first, Barksdale felt his teammates created more problems for him than solace.

"There was hostility," Barksdale said. "I heard a couple of things like 'Separate the men from the boys,' and just out of earshot 'Don't worry, if he comes by me, I'll get him.' "

Barksdale responded in parctice with action, not words. That's the form of revenge he had learned at Fort Lee.

"You never let it beeat you," Barksdale said. "You just gave as much as you could without opening your mouth. Never say anything."

Barksdale fought back with a trusty weapon, his sharp elbows. As he reminisced about Bartlesville, he patted his elbow with his left hand, just like a policeman might pat his most dependable pistol.

Done the right way, Barksdale said with a don't-mess-with-me tone, a quick jab in the chest could break an antagonist's ribs.

"You give back what you take, but you don't make noise about it," he said. "If a guy hit you, next time you go by, elbow him right back. Don't say a word, and if he says something to you, just say 'Oh, I'm sorry,' and go about your business. If you open your mouth, you start a confrontation. All of them are against you, not just one."

ELLIS COSE, JOHN LELAND, ALLISON SAMUELS, VERN E. SMITH

"BLACK LIKE WHO?"

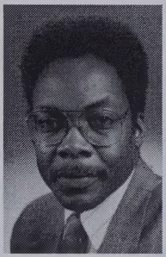
NEWSWEEK

FIRST PLACE

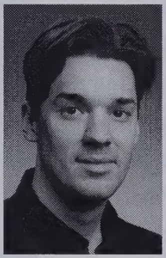
As the nation reeled from the inexplicable murder of rap star Notorious B.I.G., Newsweek hit the stands with a powerful and timely cover package on a growing division in black America: the split between veterans of the civil rights movement and the hip-hop generation. The authors spent months reporting the story from the ground up: from housing projects and youth centers, churches and college campuses, middle-class suburbs and NBA practice gyms.

The result "is conversational and engaging from the first line," NABJ judges wrote. "The story reports an intensifying conflict, its urgency and sweeping implications. This is a debate that will continue for generations."

EXCERPT As in the '60s, the battle is largely over values. During the civil-rights era, "tour elders spent most of their time and energy dealing with race issues," says Andre Thurman, 23, who works with street organizations (he rejects the word 'gangs' as prejudicial) in Kansas City, Mo. "They didn't have time to raise us. The fathers of young men are absent." Thurman, whose own father lived in another state, recently organized a forum called Let's Talk: young people on one side, old on the other. "The elders are offended by the young people swearing, selling drugs on the corner," he says. "They're afraid to address young people because they're afraid they might be assaulted." The young people, though, are just as critical. Alonzo Washington, 29, who publishes Afrocentric comics — heroes of color—in Kansas City, Kans., says that "if I'm around any older black person for a while, they'll say 'You really can think! You have a family!' — like I'm from another planet or something." Washington, who was raised by a single mother, charges that the older generation has failed to mentor. "You can condemn kids from a pulpit. But a criminal will tell them they got some style, tell them how to make money. Is a preacher going to do that, or a doctor? No. "



As a contributing editor of Newsweek since 1993, **ELLIS COSE** writes on a broad range of subjects. His latest book is "Color Blind: Seeing Beyond Race in a Race-Obsessed World". His book "The Rage of a Privileged Class" was honored by NABJ and the Deadline Club in 1994. Cose is also on the board of contributors for USA Today, and he writes essays periodically for the newspaper. A Chicago native, he holds a masters degree in science, technology and public policy from George Washington University.



JOHN LELAND is a senior write in Newsweek's Lifestyle section, reporting and writing on a wide range of topics. Leland returned to Newsweek in 1995 after serving as Editor of Details magazine in 1994. Prior to that, he had been Lifestyle senior editor since 1992. Leland is a graduate of Columbia College in New York, where he majored in English.

ALLISON SAMUELS has been a correspondent in Newsweek's Los Angeles bureau since September 1996, covering sports and entertainment. Samuels joined Newsweek in 1994 as a researcher, and has previously worked as a reporter at The Los Angeles Times. Samuels graduated from Clark Atlanta University in 1988 with a bachelors degree in mass communications.

VERN SMITH was named a national correspondent in August, 1996 after 18 years as Newsweek's Atlanta bureau chief. Smith has written and reported on a wide variety of topics, including race. Smith joined Newsweek as a reporter in the Detroit bureau in 1971. Smith is a graduate of San Francisco State University.

ANDREA FORD

"GROUND ZERO"

EMERGE

SECOND PLACE

As the public debate raged over whether the CIA had allowed some of its operatives to flood predominantly black South Central Los Angeles with crack cocaine, Ford decided to address a different issue: What happened to the people in the neighborhood? The story Ford reports is not one of conspiracies but of people and a community ravaged by the crack cocaine epidemic, children abandoned and born disabled, men and women destroyed by violence and desperate addiction. "The writer pulls you through countless tales of life on the streets," the NABJ judges wrote. "We kept wanting to read more."

DESCRIPTION Finding a Black family in South Central that has not been touched in some way by the crack epidemic is difficult, if not impossible. In bars, hair salons, restaurants and on the street, mention crack and you'll hear a horror story. Debra Griffin, who manages a jewelry shop in the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza shopping mall, has such a story. She tells how her family was devestated when her 42-year-old brother came home from a cocaine binge in 1984, got into bed and never woke up, the victim of a crack-induced heart attack.

Doris Jenkins, a senior citizen who works in a small flower shop and beauty salon on Main Street in the heart of South Central, tells of the havoc wreaked on her block by a crack dealing, crack addicted family of 15 and how each one of them ended up homeless, in jail or dead.

Emily Gibson, an eighth-grade English teacher who lives on 47th Place, amid talking about McFalls, a friend of nearly 25 years, discloses that her own family has had problems with the drug. A niece, she reveals, lives with the guilt of having watched her toddler son choke to death on a chunk of hot dog as she, crack-addicted, tried to feed him while he was congested with phlegm. Gibson explains, "There's more ways than one for this drug to have its effect on you than just smoking it."

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JAMES S. KUNEN

"BACK TO SEGREGATION"

TIME

SECOND PLACE

Since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned in 1995 efforts by a federal court judge to integrate the Kansas City public school system, resegregation has been making a quiet, little-noticed comeback. Kunen focused on two cities, Kansas City and Norfolk, but he tracked a consistent trend in the wake of the Rehnquist Court's decision from Cleveland to Louisville to Minneapolis and to Pittsburg. In all these cities, school boards have begun to roll back decades-old attempts at integration in favor of neighborhood schools, though many of these, it is clear, would educate students of only one race. Kunen's project "offers thoughtful and plausible analyses of how the justice system failed and just how mammoth are the tasks of desegregation and equality," wrote NABJ judges.

DESCRIPTION When the history of court-ordered school desegregation is written, Kansas City may go down as its Waterloo. Said to be the nation's most ambitious and expensive magnet plan, Kansas City's effort is unlikely to be matched anywhere. In fact, the high court's action has accelerated the pace at which these cities across the country are moving to undo mandatory desegregation. And the federal judiciary, which long staked its authority on the enforcement of desegregation orders, appears eager to depart the field. Chris Hansen of the American Civil Liberties Union in New York City observes, "The courts are saying 'We still agree with the goal of school desegregation, but it's too hard, and we're tired of it, and we give up.' "

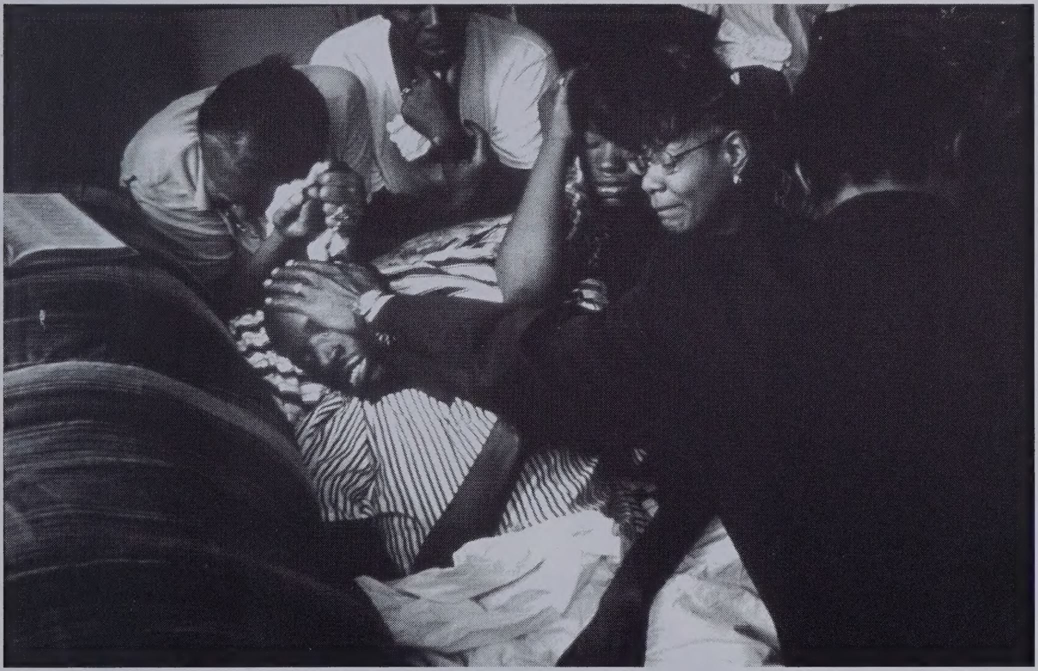
RON CORTES

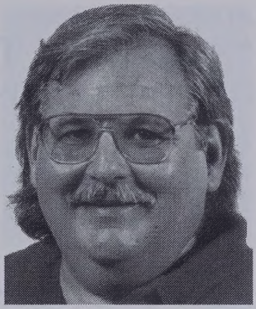
"FINAL CHOICES: SEEKING THE GOOD DEATH"

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

FIRST PLACE

Cortes captured the difficult final days of Steve Jacobs, whose family elected to seek hospice care that would allow him to die at home. "What a great piece of photojournalism!," NABJ judges wrote. "It's a compassionate commitment by a photographer to record a difficult and important story. The mood and lighting is also masterfully executed."





RON CORTES began his journalism career at the Wilmington News Journal. In 1987, he joined the Philadelphia Inquirer, where his forte is the classic photo story. He has won numerous awards. This year, Cortes was part of a three-person team which won the Pulitzer Prize in explanatory journalism for a series on facing death. A native of San Antonio and graduate of the University of Texas, Cortes is married and has one son.

ALGERNIA PERNA

"SHINING THROUGH HIS SCARS"

THE BALTIMORE SUN

SECOND PLACE

After a fire two years ago in which he lost seven family members, Paul Terrell wrests strength from tragedy. The photos "portray a sad story with a happy ending that gets beyond the obvious and provides the reader with a different view of this child's physical disability," NABJ judges wrote. "This is a good example of solid documentary photojournalism which captures the human spirit beyond the scars."

BEBETO MATTHEWS

BROADWAY DREAMS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THIRD PLACE

Walking around Times Square, Matthews came upon the story of 13-year-old Lena Caldwell, a Detroit girl whose determination to become an entertainer in New York convinced her mother Cally that the best thing to do was to leave everything behind and follow her daughter to the city of bright lights.

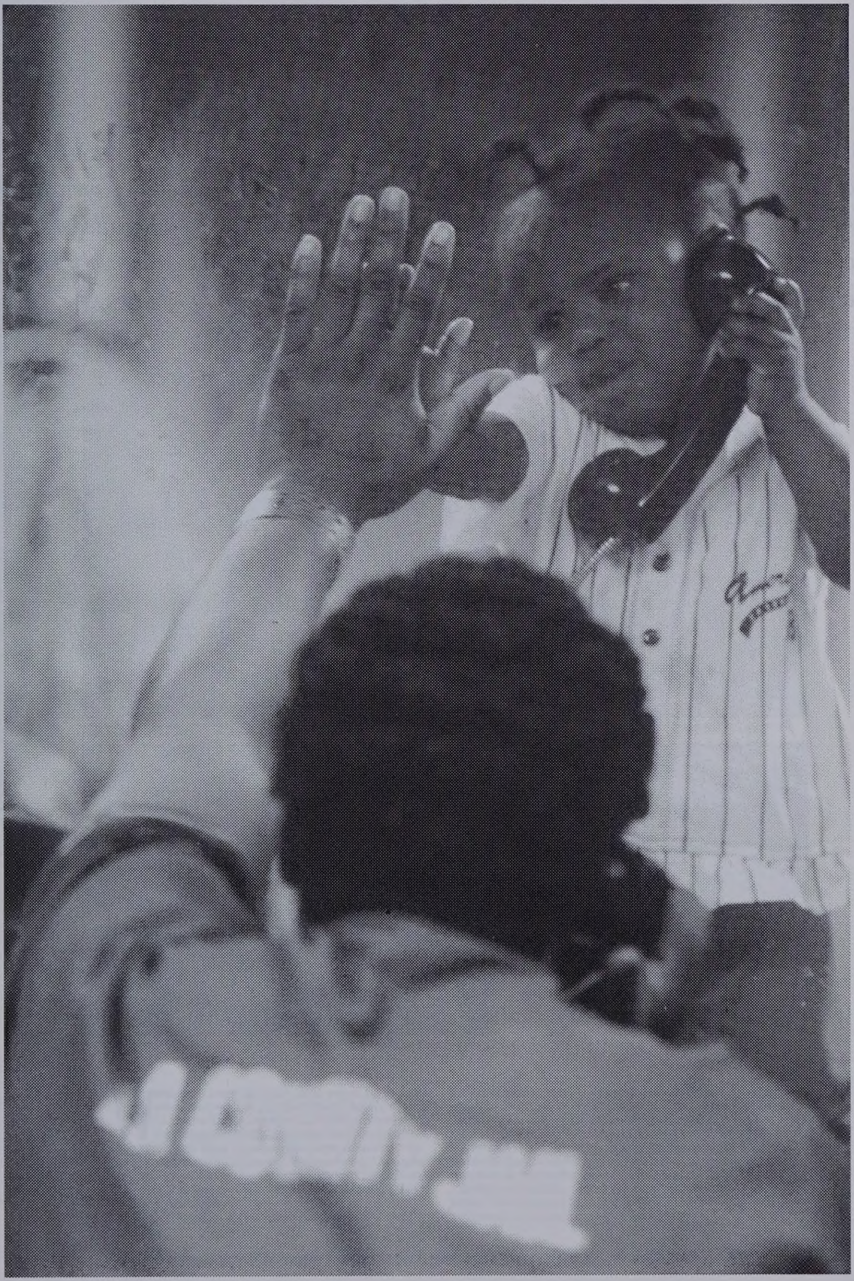
CLARENCE WILLIAMS

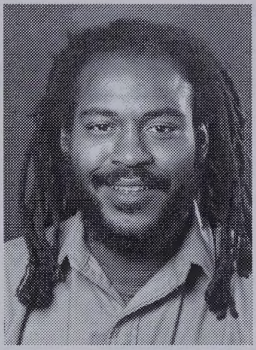
"BREAKDOWN BEHIND BARS"

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

FIRST PLACE

Clarence Williams accompanied a reporter inside the Los Angeles County jail to report on the racial conflicts, tensions and unsafe conditions in which 20,000 inmamtes try to exist. Williams' winning entry shows an imprisoned father trying to connect with his daughter. The photo "was a clear winner," wrote NABJ judges. "It tells us that incarceration has painfully divided many African-American families and shows that even imprisonment cannot break the bond between a father and his child."





CLARENCE WILLIAMS joined the Los Angeles Times as a staff photographer in 1995 after stints with the Times Comunity Newspapers in Fairfax County, Virginia; The York Daily Record in York, PA and The Philadelphia Tribune. He has previously won the first place National Headliner Award for feature photography and The Picture of the Year award for the National Press Photographers Association.

SMILEY N. POOL

"REMEMBERING A FRIEND"

THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE

SECOND PLACE

Rev. Jesse Jackson sheds a tear as he watches the moving tribute to his late friend Commerce Secretary Ron Brown at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. "The photo tillustrates patience and great timing on the photographer's part," NABJ judges wrote.

DARRELL SAPP

"NO CHARGES"

THE PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

THIRD PLACE

In September of last year, Allegheny County tensely watched the deliberations of a coroner's jury as it considered whether charges should be filed against a police officer who shot and killed two young men as he was being dragged down the street by their vehicle. When the coroner ruled that no charges would be filed against the officer, Sapp captured the shock on the faces of one of the mothers of the two young men and their attorney. The photo was "very well-executed and captured strong emotion," NABJ judges wrote.

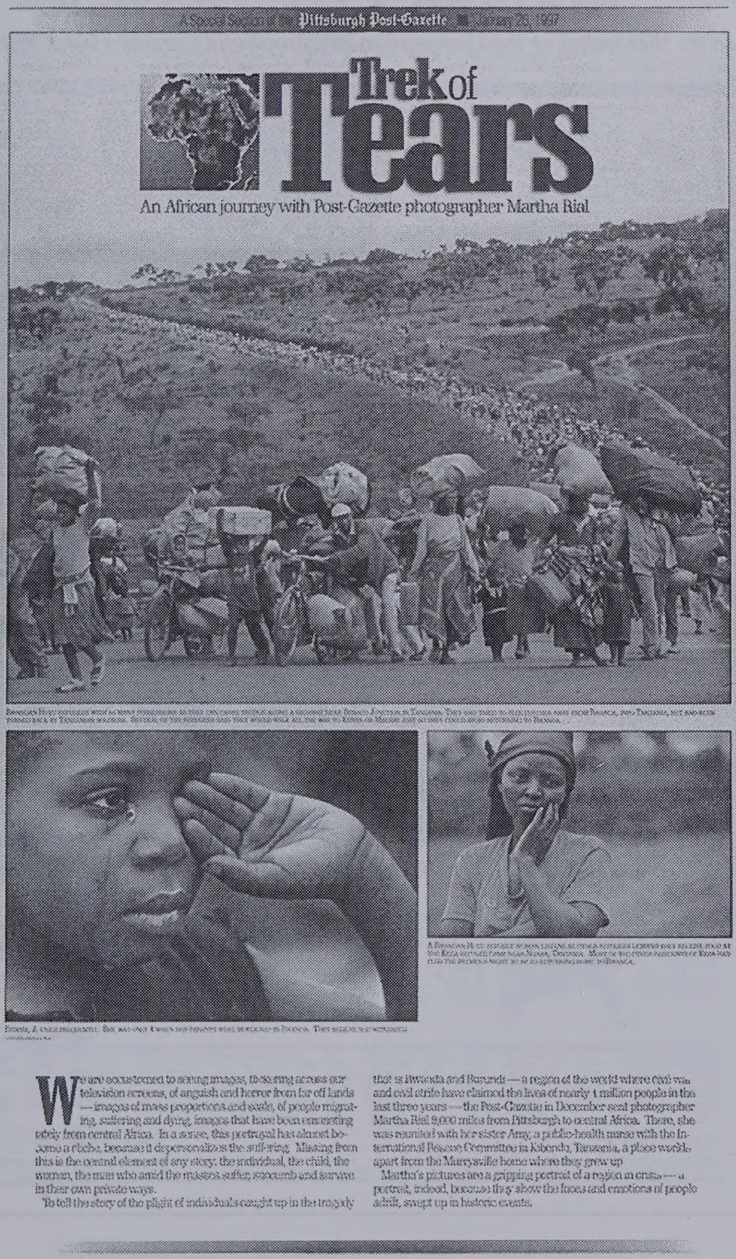
BILL PLISKE

"TREK OF TEARS"

THE PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

FIRST PLACE

Pliske's page design, encompassing eight pages, celebrates the humanity in the pictures of the men, women and children swept up in the tragedy of Rwanda and Burundi, where civil war and ethnic strife have killed more than 1 million people in the last three years. Photos were taken by staff photographer Martha Rial. The page design "has strong graphic appeal and interesting content," wrote NABJ judges. "This page was loaded with tons of information that is easily navigated by the reader/viewer."



A Special Section of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette ■ January 26, 1997

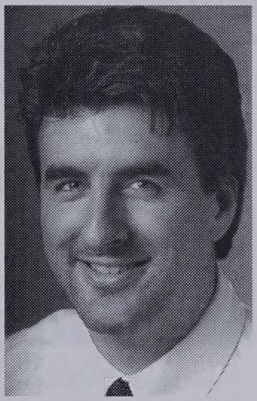
Trek of Tears

An African journey with Post-Gazette photographer Martha Rial

We are accustomed to seeing images, beaming across our television screens, of anguish and horror from far off lands — images of mass proportions and scale, of people migrating, suffering and dying, images that have been emanating solely from central Africa. In a sense, this portrayal has almost become a cliche, because it depersonalizes the suffering. Missing from this is the central element of any story: the individual, the child, the woman, the man who amid the masses suffer, succumb and survive in their own private ways.

To tell the story of the plight of individuals caught up in the tragedy that is Rwanda and Burundi — a region of the world where civil war and civil strife have claimed the lives of nearly 1 million people in the last three years — the Post-Gazette in December sent photographer Martha Rial 9,000 miles from Pittsburgh to central Africa. There, she was reunited with her sister Amy, a public-health nurse with the International Rescue Committee in Kibondo, Tanzania, a place worlds apart from the Murrysville home where they grew up.

Martha's pictures are a gripping portrait of a region in crisis — a portrait, indeed, because they show the faces and emotions of people adrift, swept up in historic events.



BILL PLISKE joined the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette as deputy graphics editor in 1994, became design director of the Sunday Magazine in 1995 and was named associate editor/graphics in 1997.

Before joining the Post-Gazette, he was graphics editor of the Victoria Advocate and the Pasadena Citizen, both in Texas.

He has won numerous honors for his work, including five consecutive first place awards in page design from the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors (1993-95) and from the Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers Association (1996-97).

Pliske lives in Pittsburgh with his wife, Jennifer, and daughter Emily.

TEAM ENTRY

"SAM THE MAN"

BET WEEKEND MAGAZINE

SECOND PLACE *This magazine covers showed the playful side of actor Samuel Jackson.*

GREG COAT, LEE WAIGAND, JEFF ADAMS, CARLA J. KIMBROUGH

"PATHS TO FREEDOM"

THE DAYTON DAILY NEWS

THIRD PLACE *A Black History Month series that looked at the Underground Railroad and Canada's black history, among other topics.*

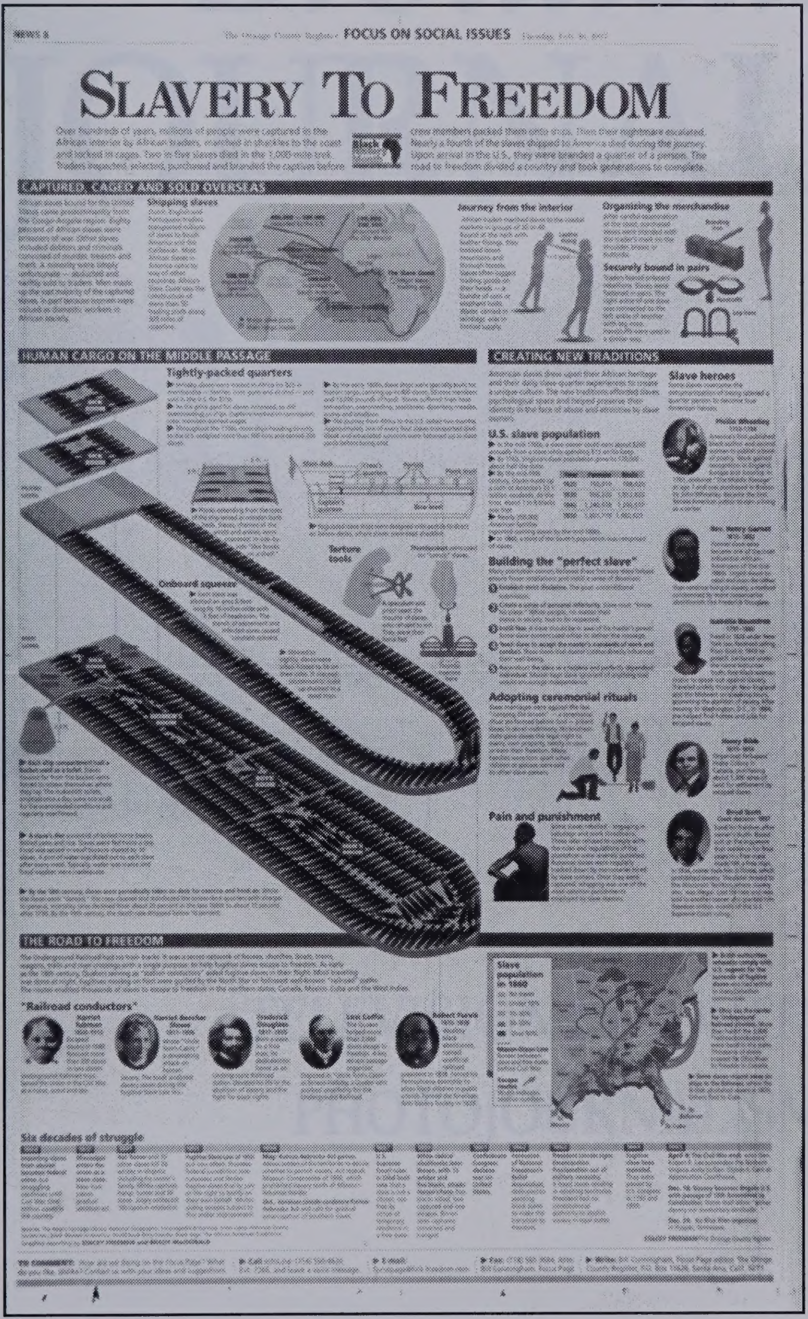
STACEY FREEMAN

"SLAVERY TO FREEDOM"

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

FIRST PLACE

This full-page informational graphic depicts the African-American journey from enslavement to escape from the Underground Railroad. "This is a clean and sophisticated presentation that is filled with well-executed information," NABJ judges wrote.



FOCUS ON SOCIAL ISSUES

SLAVERY TO FREEDOM

Over hundreds of years, millions of people were captured in the African interior by African traders, marched in shackles to the coast and locked in cages. Two in five slaves died in the 1,000-mile trek. Traders inspected, selected, purchased and branded the captives before crew members packed them onto ships. Then their nightmare escalated. Nearly a fourth of the slaves shipped to America died during the journey. Upon arrival in the U.S., they were branded a quarter of a person. The road to freedom divided a country and took generations to complete.

CAPTURED, CAGED AND SOLD OVERSEAS

HUMAN CARGO ON THE MIDDLE PASSAGE

CREATING NEW TRADITIONS

THE ROAD TO FREEDOM

STACEY FREEMAN joined The Orange County Register as a graphic artist in 1995 after a yearlong internship with The Press-Enterprise in Riverside, Calif. She graduated in 1993 from California Polytechnical University at Pomona with a B.A. in fine arts. Freeman is married and has one daughter.

DENNIS BALOGH

"ALBERT BELLE"

THE (AKRON) BEACON JOURNAL

SECOND PLACE

An illustration of Albert Belle, the controversial African-African baseball player with the Chicago White Sox and Cleveland Indians.

RICK STEINHAUSER

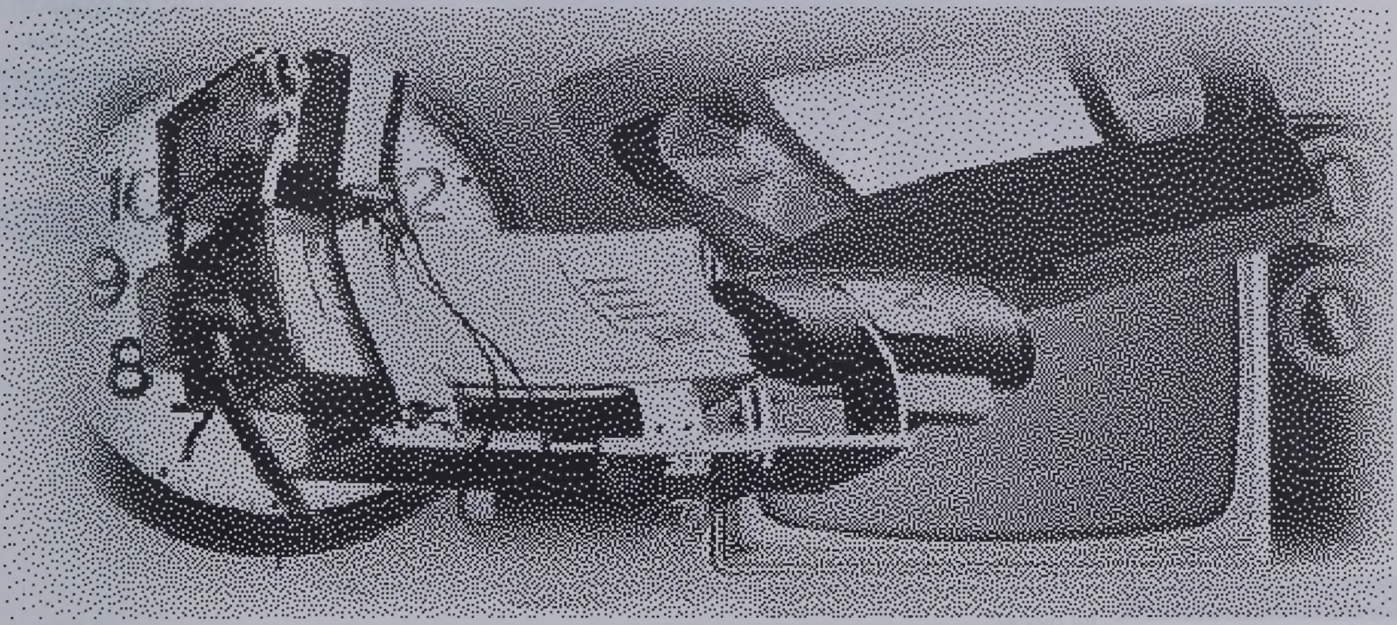
"KENNY LOFTON"

THE (AKRON) BEACON JOURNAL

THIRD PLACE

An illustration of Kenny Lofton, baseball star with the Cleveland Indians and Atlanta Braves .

Broadcast JOURNALISM



COLLAGE BY JOHN ANDERSON—THE WASHINGTON POST

TELEVISION REPORTING

PHOTOJOURNALISM

STEPHANIE FREDERIC, DONNA FOSTER-DOTSON, DEBORAH TANG, ROMON ALPHONSO

"BLACK YOUTH VIOLENCE"

BLACK ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION/BET NEWS

FIRST PLACE *The clock is ticking away as an alarming increase in violent crime strikes down the lives of Black youngsters. This entry was one of a cluster of reports on the problems and solutions.*

EXCERPT "Consider this, you can fill 94 classrooms or 5 of these jumbo jets with the number of black children who were murdered in one year."

JUDGES COMMENTS "...Story brought it home. She put a face on the problem. Very powerful piece!"

"One of the better TV News pieces I've seen in a long time..."

STEPHANIE A. FREDERIC began her career in broadcast journalism in 1982 as a reporter at KWTV/KTVY-TV in Oklahoma City. She later worked in Dallas, San Francisco and Houston before landing a job in 1988 as west coast correspondent for Black Entertainment Television in Los Angeles. In addition to her work for BET, she is also a reporter/producer for King World Productions in Los Angeles. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Frederic has won numerous awards, including an NABJ award in 1994 for features reporting.

SUSAN ZIRINSKY, JUDY GREENSPAN, LESLIE MULKEY, MARY MURPHY, RANDY MORRISON

"READY SET GO"

48 HOURS/CBS NEWS

SECOND PLACE

As part of a special edition on the Class of 2000, 48 HOURS focused several segments on two young African-American women. This segment follows the young women over a period of two months, and shows the world through their eyes for a snapshot of the issues that confront the next generation.

JUDGES COMMENTS

"A positive story which clearly demonstrates how young black people of color can achieve.... not overly sugary and unrealistic in content."

HAROLD DOW , SUSAN ZIRINSKY , ANDREW COHEN, FRANK HODNETT, JUDY TYGARD

"RHYTHM AND BLUES"

48 HOURS/CBS NEWS

THIRD PLACE

Patti Labelle talks for the first time about the constant obstacles she's faced to get ahead in her career. A look at the singer at home with her husband/manager.

JUDGES COMMENTS

"Compelling and interesting. Good production values. Well produced".

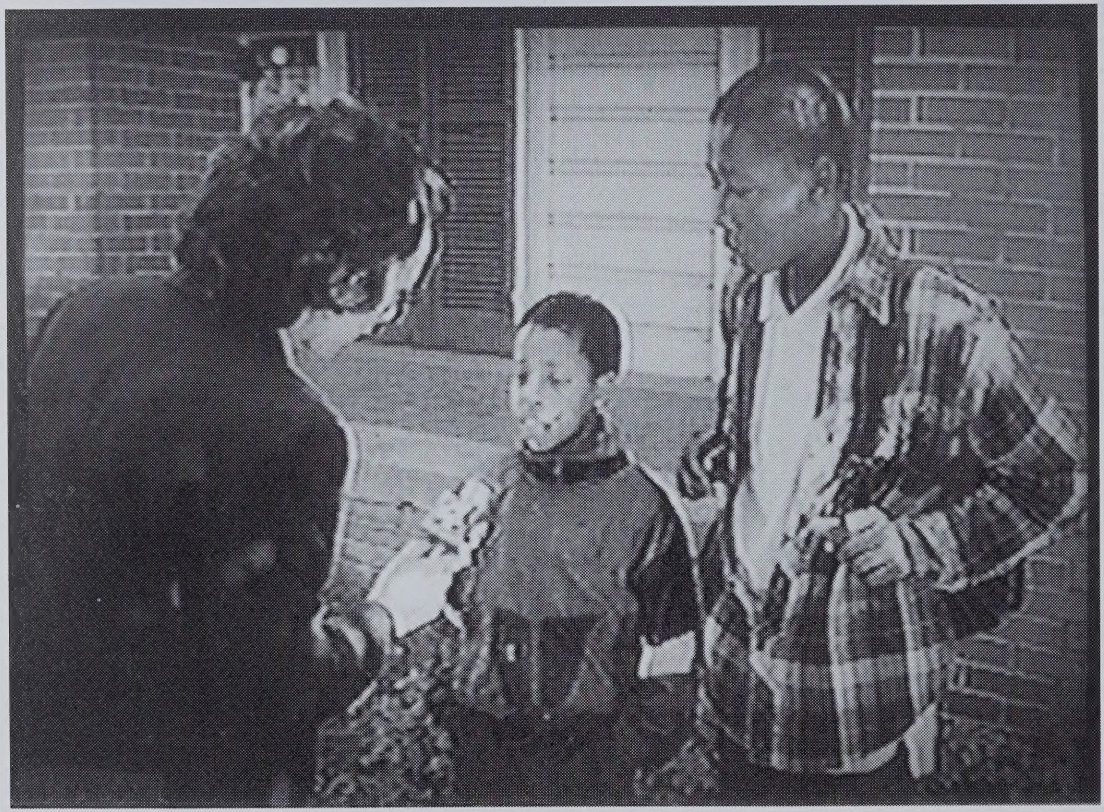
MICHELLE M. MILLER

"UNLIKELY HEROES"

WWL-TV (New Orleans)

FIRST PLACE *Two kids notice a man hanging on a live electrical wire in distress on a busy New Orleans street on their way to school. The man may not have been alive today if they didn't find him. It's a story the reporter, who was being assigned to cover another story instead, fought to have told.*

EXCERPT "It was a sight two New Orleans eighth graders never expected to see and at first glance, they say, they thought the man was trimming his tree."



JUDGES COMMENTS "Compelling pictures; story very well written and told. "

MICHELLE MILLER is a native of Los Angeles who began her career as a journalist as a staff writer at the Los Angeles Times. Her first job in broadcast was at the Orange County Newschannel in Southern California. She later worked in Columbia, S.C. as an anchor before coming to WWL-TV, a CBS affiliate in 1994. Michelle has since been promoted to anchor of the station's highly-rated Early Edition Eyewitness News. Michelle received a B.A. in journalism from Howard University, graduating with honors. She has also traveled extensively, including to Kenya, Tanzania, East Africa and Australia.

PAUL SERRELL , STEVE HIGGINS

"ANGRY BRIDES"

KOTV-TV (Tulsa, OK)

SECOND PLACE *Stories of brides-to-be "stiffed" by a local bridal shop. The reporter and photographer believe the segment proves how journalism can still rally a community.*

JUDGES COMMENTS "Exciting story. Good reporter involvement."

VIC CARTER , ALLEN CURK, CRYSTAL JOHNS

"KIDS AND AMMO: A SECOND LOOK"

WJZ-TV (Baltimore, MD)

THIRD PLACE *Our children are dying in the streets. Guns are bought on street corners and in back rooms. The ammunition for these guns are sold in the open and over the counter.*

JUDGES COMMENTS "Story well produced..."

DEL WALTERS , CINDY WRIGHT, PAT DONNELLY

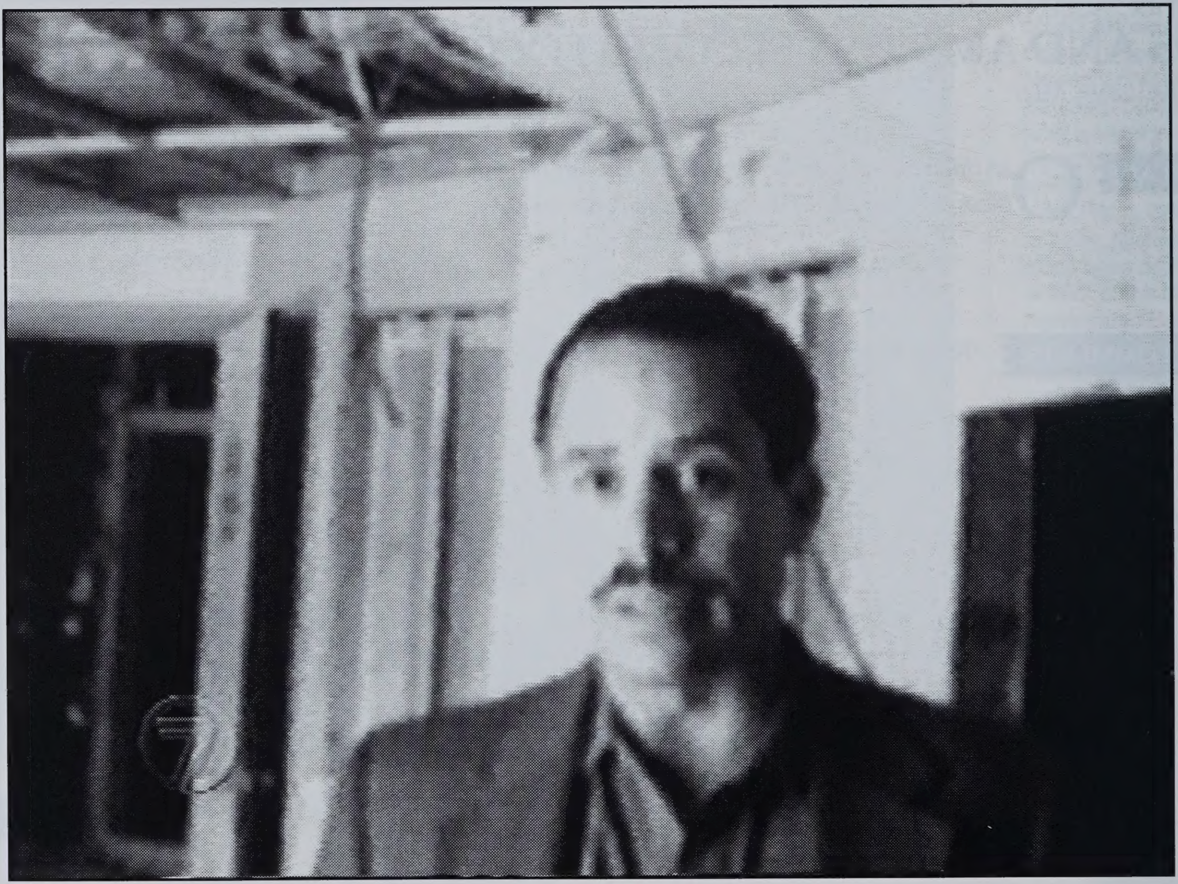
"HEROIN HOTEL"

WJLA-TV (Washington, D.C.)

FIRST PLACE

An indepth view of a four-story warehouse owned by the District of Columbia government and overrun by hundreds of heroin addicts and dealers. Located less than a mile from the U.S. Capitol, the heroin hotel has flourished for the better part of a decade.

EXCERPT "On any given day as many as a hundred junkies walk into this building. It's a building where conditions are so bad, few... have ventured beyond the first floor. To get the pictures you're about to see, we had to use hidden cameras."



JUDGES COMMENTS "Loved the action. Animation/editing superb. We couldn't find anything wrong with this report."

TRACEY NEALE, AL RICHARDSON

"HIGHLAND BEACH"

WTTG-TV (Washington, D.C.)

SECOND PLACE *A peak at the first black township in Maryland and the first African-American resort in the country.*

JUDGES COMMENTS "... Great standup ideas. Editing and shooting were great."

CATHY HOBBS

"NO PLACE TO CALL HOME"

WRC-TV (Washington, D.C.)

THIRD PLACE *A hidden camera investigation showing widespread discrimination against African-Americans in Washington D.C. housing.*

JUDGES COMMENTS "Attention grabbing soundbites. Good investigation. Writing was good. Video and soundbites told story."

LaTONYA TURNER

"HOOKED ON THE STREETS"

WSMV-TV (Nashville, Tenn.)

FIRST PLACE *A series on what drives street prostitution in Nashville. The reports apparently helped motivate city officials to develop a rehabilitation program for prostitutes and a "John School" for men convicted of soliciting them.*

EXCERPT "Armed with a camcorder and a gutsy attitude, Wilson crusades against prostitution in her community".

JUDGES COMMENTS "Compelling story. Captivating Video."

LATONYA TURNER is a special projects reporter at WSMV-TV(NBC) in Nashville, where she has worked since 1988. She previously worked at KSLA-TV(CBS) in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Turner has specialized in reporting on social health issues for much of her broadcast career. She is a recipient of a previous NABJ Award, and a local Emmy. She has also been recognized by community service groups for her work.

A native of Louisiana, Turner is a graduate of Lousiana State University. She is married and has three children.

CINDY GARZA, CHARLES SHEPHERD

"GANGSTA GIRLS"

ROCO-TV (Oklahoma City, Okla.)

SECOND PLACE *A series about girls who join gangs and the problems they face.*

JUDGES COMMENTS ".....Superb videography and editing. The series ended with a solution."

* * *

STEVE CRUMP

"FAITH UNDER FIRE"

WBTV-TV (Charlotte, N.C.)

THIRD PLACE *The piece follows a Charlotte community's mood and reaction from the day a black church was destroyed by an arson fire until an arrest was made.*

JUDGES COMMENTS "Great reporting technique. Reporter actually takes you through story, with updates."

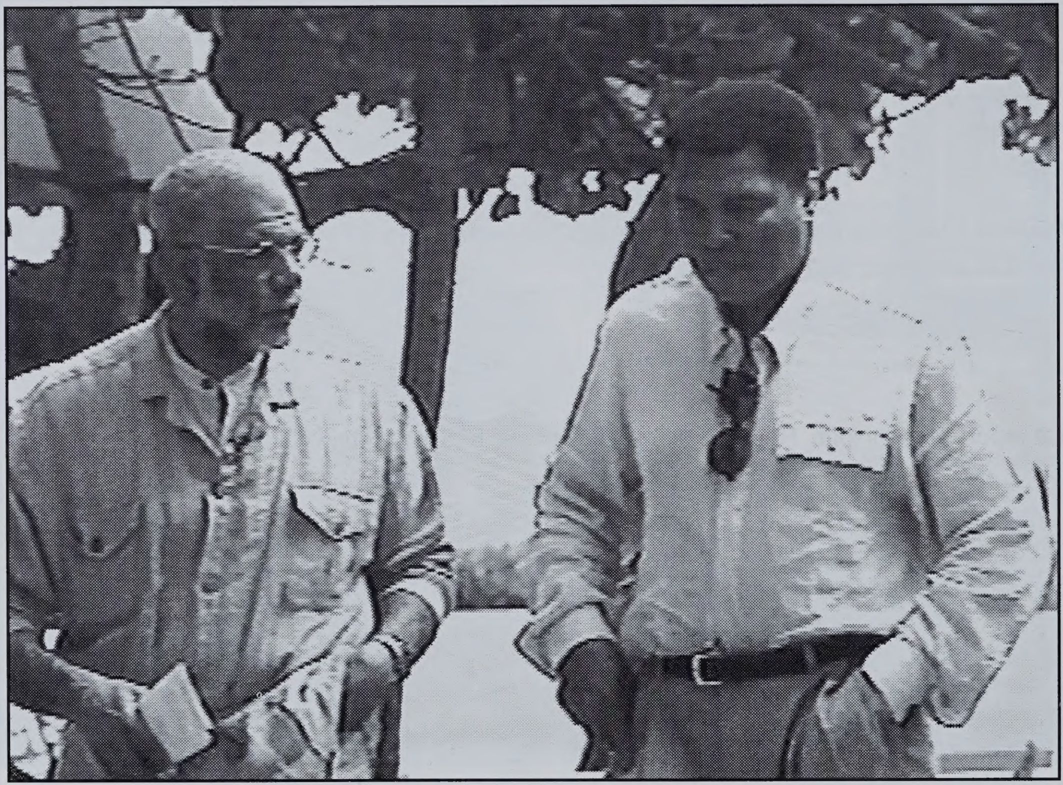
ED BRADLEY, JOHN HAMLIN

"THE GREATEST"

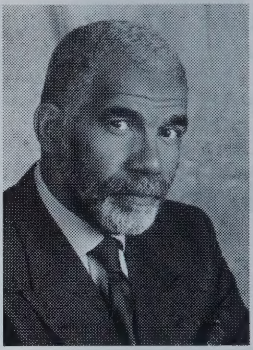
CBS, 60 MNUTES (New York, NY)

FIRST PLACE *The show "60-Minutes" follows legendary Muhammad Ali over three months, giving candid insight on how the former boxing great lives with Parkinson's syndrome.*

EXCERPT "... still, people tend to dismiss his physical limitations, are respectful of the sometimes awkward silence that questions receive... Many are people deeply touched by his presence."



JUDGES COMMENTS "Excellent storytelling, providing new insights on this boxing icon, and it's all done without an interview with Ali."



Now in his 16th season on 60 minutes, **ED BRADLEY** joined CBS News as a stringer in Paris in 1971. He was later transferred to Saigon, then wounded on the job in Cambodia.

The recipient of numerous awards, Bradley was awarded the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award grand prize in 1996 for "In the Killing Fields of America," a documentary about violence. In 1995, he won his 11th Emmy Award for a 60 MINUTES report on nuclear testing in Kazakhstan. The same year, he was honored with an Overseas Press Club for 60 MINUTES reports on military installations in Russia and the U.S.

Prior to his work at CBS, Bradley, 56, worked for radio stations in New York and his birthplace, Philadelphia. He received his bachelor's degree from Cheney State College in Pennsylvania.

STEVE CROFT, CLAUDIA WEINSTEIN

"LORRAINE MONROE'S DOCTRINE"

CBS (New York, NY)

SECOND PLACE *Profile of Dr. Lorraine Monroe, a determined and dynamic educator, and the school she has transformed in Harlem - the Frederick Douglass Academy.*

JUDGES COMMENTS "... An uplifting story that proves what an individual can do to inspire kids with perserverance."

MIKE WALLACE, JOHN HAMLIN

"TINA TURNER"

CBS (New York, NY)

THIRD PLACE A revealing look at Tina Turner, and how at age 56, she is still at the top of her game.

JUDGES COMMENTS "It answered all the questions. Production was excellent."

LaTONYA TURNER, MATT KING

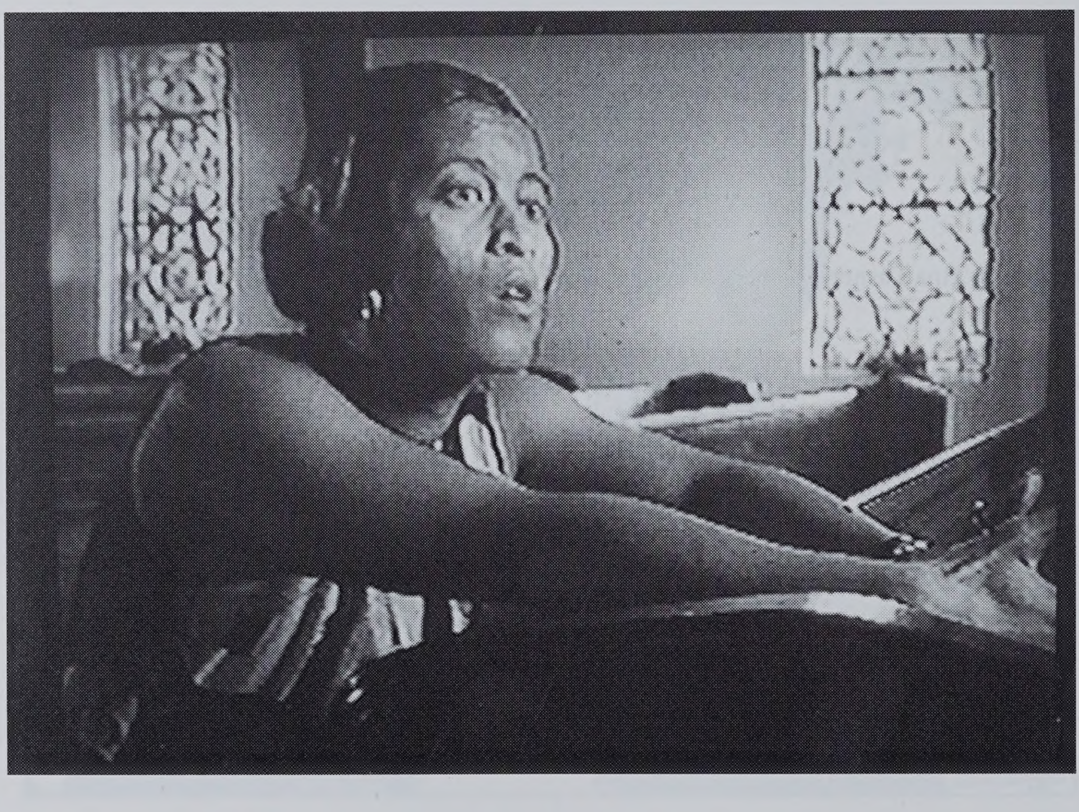
"ALECIA'S STORY"

WSMV-TV (Nashville, TN)

FIRST PLACE

One woman's story of falling into prostitution and drug abuse, and her on-going struggle to turn her life around. This story helped publicize efforts by Nashville city officials to develop an outreach program for street prostitutes.

EXCERPT "By age 20, Alecia Robinson was on a path to self-destruction, looking for love in a crack pipe."



JUDGES COMMENTS "Riveting, significant, great use of sound, emotional..."

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A native of Louisiana, Turner is a graduate of Lousiana State University. She is married and has three children.

BONITA BILLINGSLEY, RON MESSINA

"ASHANTI'S GIFT"

WVEC-TV (Norfolk, VA)

SECOND PLACE

Ashanti is a very special little girl, who has inspired her family, classmates and teachers with her determination and spunk, despite her physical disabilities.

JUDGES COMMENTS "Great reporter interaction; feel good package."

SUSAN KIDD

"PINEY WOODS SCHOOL"

WRC-TV (Washington, D.C.)

THIRD PLACE

This piece showcases the Pineywoods Academy, an all-black boarding school, which focuses on returning to the basics of education, and old-time values. The school targets inner-city D.C. youth who have opted to get away from the mean streets to try and better themselves.

JUDGES COMMENTS "Excellent use of quick soundbites, good natural sound, good student interviews."

DEBORAH C. TANG, PRENELLA NEELY , STACEY Y. WARD , GEORGE JOHNSON

"THE EARLY EXIT"

BLACK ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION

FIRST PLACE

An indepth look at last year's mass exodus to the National Basketball Association by young high schoolers and college underclassmen.

EXCERPT "Young men pursuing professional sports careers without finishing college or even forgoing college is nothing new to the world of sports. In fact, out here on the diamond, they've been drafting young men out of high school since 1965."

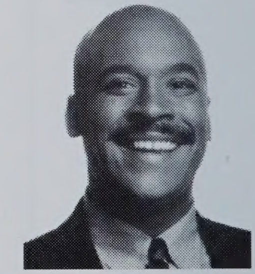
JUDGES COMMENTS "Well produced . . . good use of video"

DEBORAH TANG serves as Black Entertainment Television's Vice President of News, Sports & Entertainment programming. Tang joined BET as executive producer of news and public affairs in 1986, and was promoted to director of that department in 1989. She became vice president in 1992.

Tang began her career in 1978 as producer for "The Charlie Rose Show" at KXAS-TV in Dallas. She moved to the Washington, D.C. area in 1980 when the show moved to WRC-TV there. Before joining BET, Tang served as producer at several network affiliates.

Tang's other accolades include an Emmy Award for a one-hour special entitled "The KKK" in Washington while with WJLA and three other Emmy nominations.

A native of Chicago, Tang makes her home in the greater Washington area.



GEORGE JOHNSON, JR. is an 11-year veteran of the television broadcast sports industy. He is currently a reporter/anchor with Black Entertainment Television (BET), where he hosts "Sportspage".

In addition, Johnson hosts and provides sports play-by-play for regional network, Home Team Sports (HTS), and broadcasts live events for college conferences. He has also hosted several other sports interview shows.

Johnson received a Bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism from Howard University. He lives in Greenbelt, Maryland with his wife and two daughters.

TOM O'NEAL, HARRY HAIRSTON

"RISE AND FALL"

WKBD-TV (Southfield, MI)

SECOND PLACE

A look at two local boxers: one a teenager, the other in his 30s and their struggle for a shot at the title. While their goal is the same, their perspectives are different.

JUDGES COMMENTS

"Gritty, earthy, good photography."

DEWAYNE DANCER

"HOW THE DALLAS COWBOYS BECAME AMERICA'S TEAM"

WOODSON-HENNINGS SHOW, FOX SOUTHWEST CABLE (Dallas, TX)

THIRD PLACE

The story behind the nicknaming of the Dallas Cowboys.

JUDGES COMMENTS

"Good writing and production value . . . "

DAVID BRANCH, CHARLIE MICKINS

"BULL CREEK GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB"

WTZD-TV (Durham, North Carolina)

FIRST PLACE

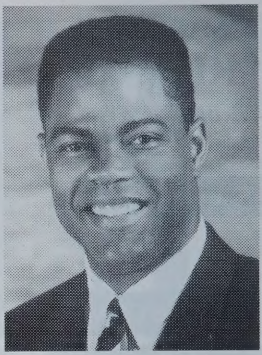
Details a story of five black families who took family land no longer profitable for farming and turned it into a golf course, one of only a hand full of black-owned courses in the country.

EXCERPT

" In a sport that has traditionally excluded minorities, Bull Run has gotten a bull run of help to get started."

JUDGES COMMENTS

"Original, personal, good stand-up, interesting. Unique story."



DAVID BRANCH joined NewsChannel 11 as weekend sports anchor in 1995. He joined the station from KERO-TV, the CBS affiliate in Bakersfield, California, where he served as weekend news anchor.

A native of the Washington, D.C. area, Branch graduated from Washington University in St. Louis where he earned a degree in mechanical engineering. Prior to his broadcasting career, Branch worked for the Monsanto Corporation in St. Louis for 10 years.

DEMETRIA KALODIMOS, GARY KNOX

"SASHA: AN OLYMPIC DREAM"

WSMV-TV (Nashville, TN)

SECOND PLACE *Profile of an extraordinary young athlete and her devoted coach - her father.*

JUDGES COMMENTS "Great photography. Good writing."

MARSHA BERRY

"THE SOUTHERN HERITAGE CLASSICAL SPECIAL"

WMC-TV (Memphis, TN)

THIRD PLACE *This annual football game pits two African-American colleges against each other. The 60,000 people who attend the "Classic Weekend" make it one of the largest annual events in the region.*

JUDGES COMMENTS "Content good. Nice shots and production."

SARA JAMES , LISA HSIA, PAUL NICHOLS, REBECCA HAGGERTY

"SUDAN SLAVERY"

DATELINE NBC/NBC NEWS

FIRST PLACE

The first American television piece to address the issue of chattel slavery in Sudan. The segment reveals how the taking of women and children in the South as slaves is part of a complex religious civil war between the North and the South.

JUDGES COMMENTS

"...Very thorough and compelling."
".... The video and audio told the whole story."

As senior producer for "Dateline NBC," **LISA HSIA** has produced a number of international stories, including a profile of Nobel Prize-winning author Kenzaburo Oe and his disabled son and a look at the Japanese military unit that practiced biological experimentation on Prisoners of War in China during World War II.

Hsia is the recipient of five national Emmy awards, the National Press Club's Freedom of the Press Award and two National Headliner awards.

Prior to joining NBC News, Hsia worked as a producer for "Prime Time Live" at ABC News and an independent documentary filmmaker for public television.

Hsia graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University in 1980.

SARA JAMES was named a Dateline NBC correspondent in December 1994. Her varied work has included coverage of the Oklahoma City bombing, the Bosnian War Crimes Tribunal and slavery in the Sudan. The Sudanese slavery story also earned James a prestigious National Press Club award for international reporting.

In addition to herw ork at Dateline, James also serves as substitute co-anchor and substitute news reader on NBC News' "Today" and on MSNBC.

James joined NBC News as a general correspondent based in New York in 1992. She later served as national correspondent for "NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw."

A native of Durham, N.C., James is a graduate of the University of Virginia.

JERRY REVISH

"PASSING THE TORCH"

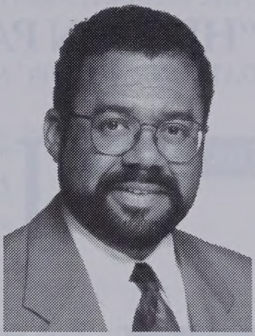
WBNS-TV (Columbus, OH)

FIRST PLACE

This segment is a five-part series examining South Africa's legacy of apartheid, its transition to democratic government and how the Ohio State University is using technology and some freshly-minted black Ph. D's to help rebuild a nation.

EXCERPT "There's a lot of emotional attachment here at the Parliament of Capetown, South Africa. Just two years ago, blacks weren't even permitted on the grounds here. They had dogs posted out here to shoo them away."

JUDGES COMMENTS "Beautiful shots, well-spoken, good pace, never got boring..."
"...Natsound use puts the viewer *in* the story; Muy Bien!"



JERRY REVISH brings the early weekday news to Columbus as co-anchor of the 6 a.m. and noon news for 10TV Eyewitness news. An award-winning reporter at the station since 1980, Revish is well-known for his coverage of international news stories. His news assignments have taken him all over the world, including Tokyo, Haiti, South Africa, Bosnia and Saudi Arabia. Revish won NABJ's top international reporting award in 1996 for a series of reports on the liberation of Haiti.

Revish began his broadcasting career in 1972 as a weekend radio news reporter at WBBW in his hometown of Youngstown, Ohio. He and his wife, Danielle, have two children, Nicole and Jerome.

BARBARA CIARA, DOUGLAS SESNY

"OPERATION HAITI"

WVEC-TV (Norfolk, VA)

SECOND PLACE

A Haitian child struggles to survive as his country goes through a rebuilding process, aided by a group of marines from Norfolk.

JUDGES COMMENTS "Content is very moving. Reality is written all over this piece. Good production, very touching piece..."

JANE PAULEY, ARETHA MARTIN, SETH KARTEN, DIANE MASCIALE, NEAL SHAPIRO

"HIDDEN PAST"

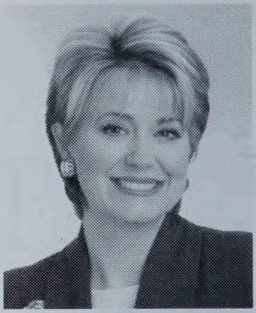
DATELINE NBC/NBC NEWS

FIRST PLACE

Journalist/musician James McBridge grew up one of twelve in Brooklyn's Red Hood Housing Project. His unique, often humorous story deals with many issues including race, poverty and family values.

EXCERPT "Ever since he was a little boy he'd been haunted by the misery of her. There was something very strange about the woman he called mommy and he couldn't be at peace with himself until he got to the bottom of it."

JUDGES COMMENTS "...Talent, writing, technology got out of the way to let the story tell itself! Great job."



A principal anchor of the Emmy-winning 'Dateline NBC,' **JANE PAULEY** has presented probing and compassionate interviews to American viewers throughout her career at NBC News. She is also the anchor of the nightly 'Time and Again' on MSNBC Cable, the news, talk and information cable network from NBC and Microsoft.

In recent years, Pauley also served as anchor of NBC's 'Real Life with Jane Pauley' and worked on numerous NBC News documentaries. Pauley joined NBC News as co-anchor of 'Today.'

CHERYL MARTIN, PRENELLA NEELY, FRANK RHODES, DEBORAH TANG

"THE LEGACY: DREAMING AND LIVING SUCCESS"

BLACK ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION

SECOND PLACE

An inspirational look at successful African Americans and the parents who instilled the seeds of greatness.

LILIAN PAULMIER

"ARE YOU BLACK, WHITE OR WHAT?"

WHYY (Philadelphia, PA)

THIRD PLACE

Examines how children of bi-racial marriages view their heritage. A personal journey for the producer, who is black and married to a white man.

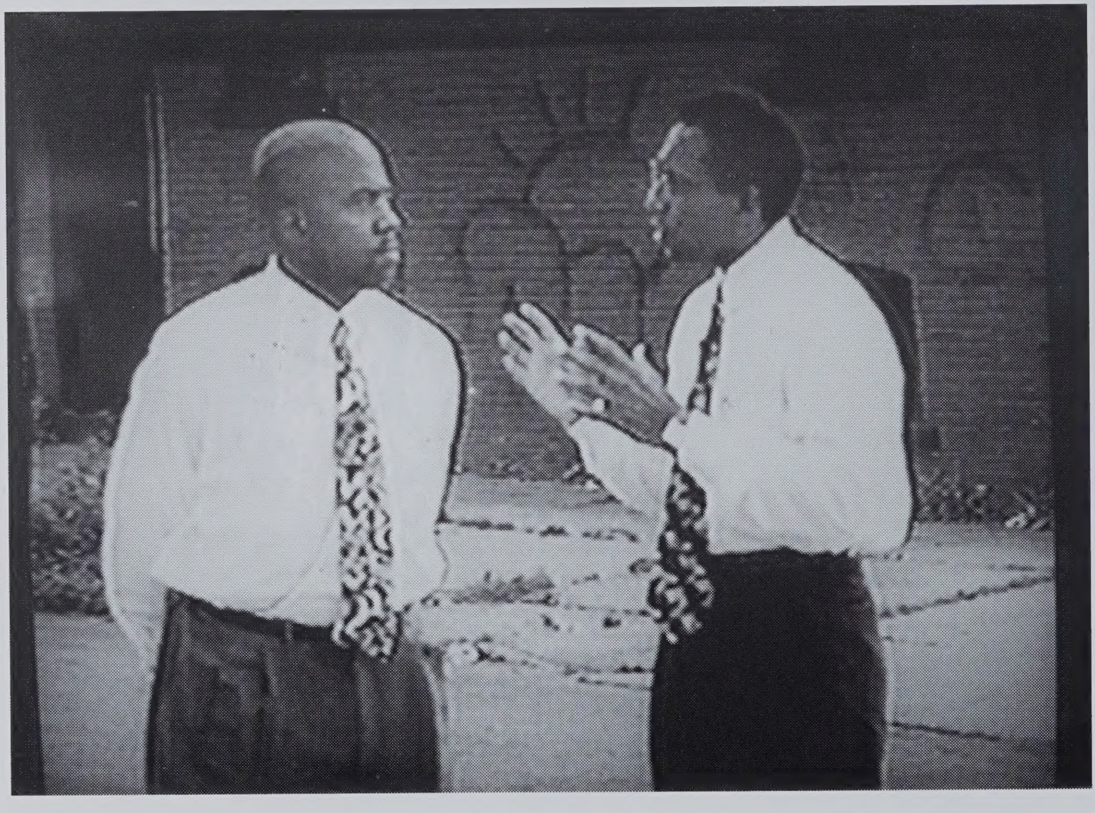
MIKE ANDERSON, CARY EDWARDS, KELLY LADWIG, MARYANN LAZARSKI

"SOLUTIONS TO VIOLENCE"

WISN-TV (Milwaukee, WI)

FIRST PLACE *Explores life in a violent neighborhood after a drive-by shooting of two teenage girls.*

EXCERPT "Usually what they see on TV is a shooting or something like that. But you've got good people here, people like yourself. You're out working, you want to make a difference."



JUDGES COMMENTS "Good piece. Compelling topic. Well-executed..."

MIKE ANDERSON is an anchor/reporter for WISN-TV in Milwaukee, where he co-anchors the six o'clock newscast. His previous station was KIRO-TV in Seattle.

A native of New Orleans, Anderson graduated from Career Academy in Atlanta, Georgia. He has worked at radio and television stations in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia.

Anderson received a 1990 Feature Merit Award from the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association, and was recently nominated for two Emmys. He is also a recording artist.

Anderson lives Brown Deer with his wife, two daughters and a son.

JACKIE PILLARS

"A SUMMER OF CHAMPIONS"

WSMV-TV (Nashville, TN)

SECOND PLACE *An indepth look at Tennesseans' significant contributions to the Summer Olympic Games, including Wilma Rudolph.*

LINDA WHITE, ANDREA MOREHEAD, TARA WALL, DAN LIMBAUGH, MIKE INGRAM

"IN SEARCH OF THE DREAM"

WOOD-TV (Grand Rapids, MI)

THIRD PLACE *A celebration of black history and diversity with a look at issues affecting the African-American community, including racism in private schools, and the impact of a local African-American fire chief.*

RANDALL PINKSTON, ALEXIS YANCEY GEORGE, ROBIN SKEETE

"CHILD'S PLAY"

CBS SUNDAY MORNING, CBS (New York, NY)

FIRST PLACE

The story of how two women - one South African, the other African-American - are bringing self-esteem to South African children, along with economic empowerment and desperately need jobs to adults.

EXCERPT

"No one expects the dolls to resolve South Africa's pressing problems, but in a vital way, they are teaching children self esteem as the adults learn self empowerment."

KATHERINE COURIC , TIM UEHLINGER, LORI BEECHER

"HERE'S JOHNNIE"

DATELINE NBC/NBC (New York)

SECOND PLACE

A look at the life and times of famed criminal defense attorney Johnnie Cochran, Jr. including his work and views about the O.J. Simpson murder case.

BEV SMITH, FELICIA WATKINS, STUART PERKINS, DEBORAH CANADA TANG, PRENELLA NEELY

"OUR VOICES: SUICIDE"

BLACK ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION (Washington, D.C.)

THIRD PLACE

The segment examines the current increase in suicides among young black men between the ages of 15 to 24, giving solutions to the problem.

ROBYN SIMON

"LEAP OF FAITH"

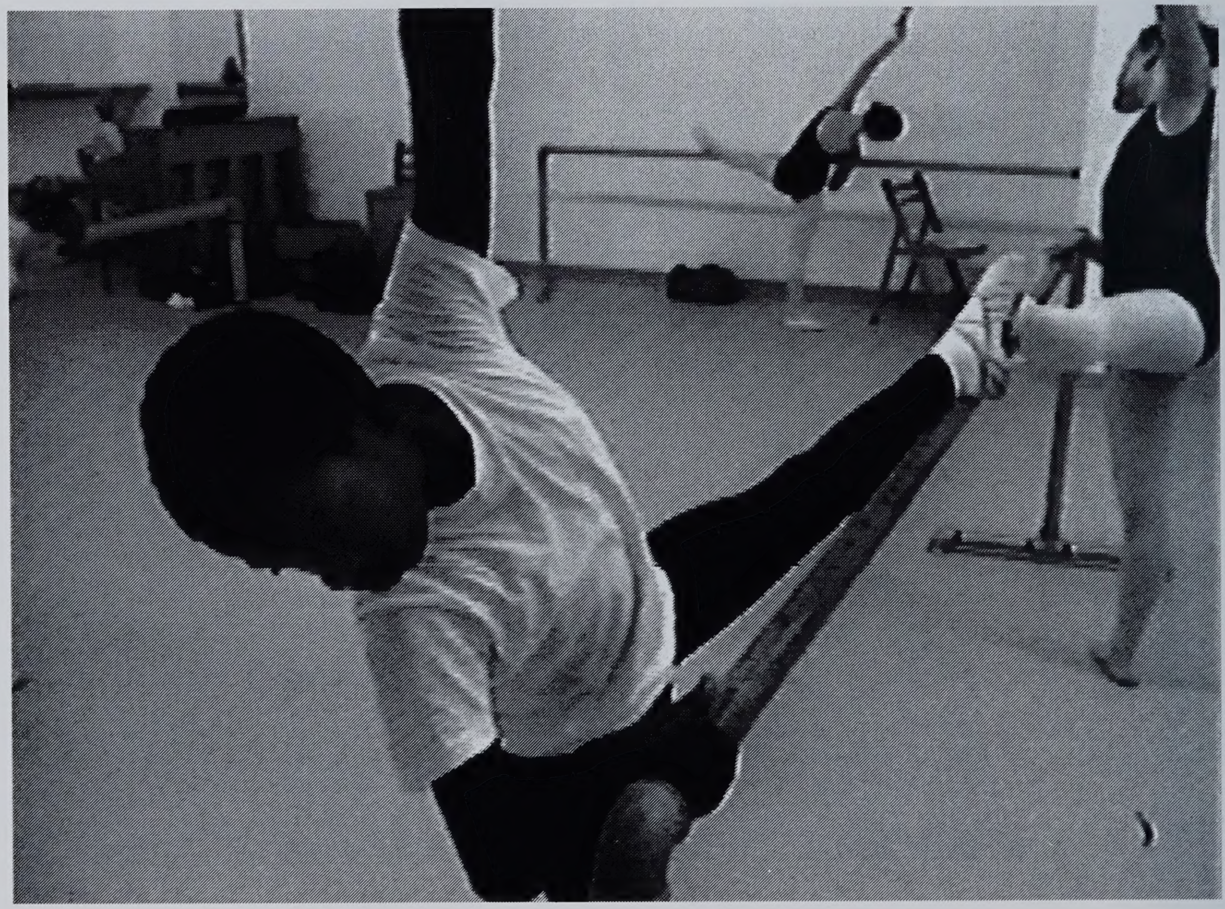
WPBT -TV (Miami, FL)

FIRST PLACE

A story of a young boy from the inner city who overcomes incredible odds to make his unusual dream come true.

EXCERPT

"... the name of the game kids play on the street is called survival, and dreams - well, dreams only happen when you go to sleep at night. But one day 12-year-old Joshua Bowdoin woke up and decided to make his dream come true."



ADEMOLA EKULONA, EVERETT L. MARSHBURN

"KWANZAA: SERIOUS FUN"

MARYLAND PUBLIC TELEVISION (Owings Mills, MD)

SECOND PLACE *An exploration of Kwanzaa holiday and its meaning.*

ALLISON PAYNE — Reporter

"EXTRA EFFORT"

WGN-TV (Chicago, IL)

THIRD PLACE *A weekly salute to high school students who achieve academically and make a difference in their community.*

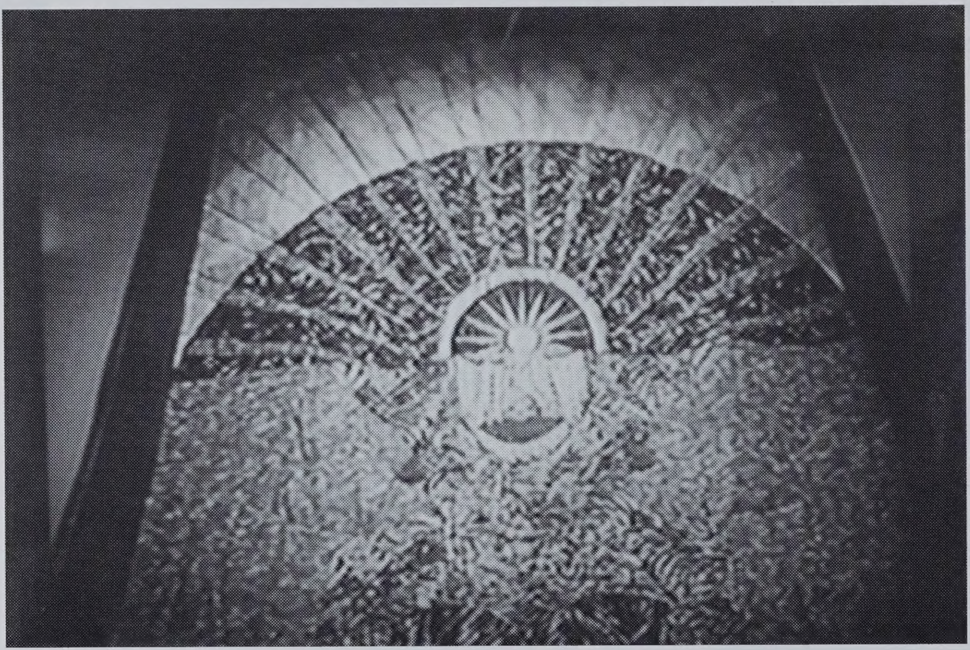
RUGENE MOORE

"QUILTY EXHIBITION"

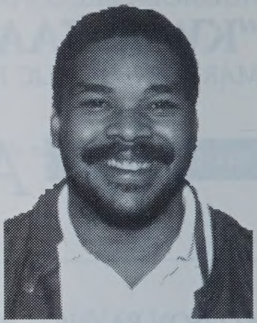
WFLA-TV (Tampa, FL)

FIRST PLACE An exhibit entitled "Daughters of Harriet Powers" pays tribute to an American quilt maker.

EXCERPT "We're talking about political issues. We're talking about social issues. You can go from one quilt and laugh, go to the next quilt and weep."



JUDGES COMMENTS "Still works of art come alive."



RUGENE MOORE is an 18-year TV news veteran and graduate of Howard University. A native of Baton Rouge, La., he is currently working as a news photographer at the NBC affiliate WFLA-TV in Tampa, Florida. He began his career working Capitol Hill and the White House for The Washington Post-Newsweek start-up bureau during the early Reagan years, later moving on to WJXT-TV in Jacksonville, Fla. He began his work in the Tampa area at the ABC affiliate, WTSP-TV. Moore is proudest of the Associated Press and other awards he garnered for a documentary on the efforts of the survivors and descendents of the Rosewood, Fla. massacre to petition the state for restitution.

MARK JOHNSTON

“OUT OF THE ASHES”

WPXI-TV (Pittsburgh, PA)

SECOND PLACE *The series follows a group of people from Pittsburgh to Tyronza, Arkansas as they help rebuild an African-American church that burned down.*

DESCRIPTION "Heart warming story of brotherhood and harmony told by the participants themselves."

RUGENE MOORE

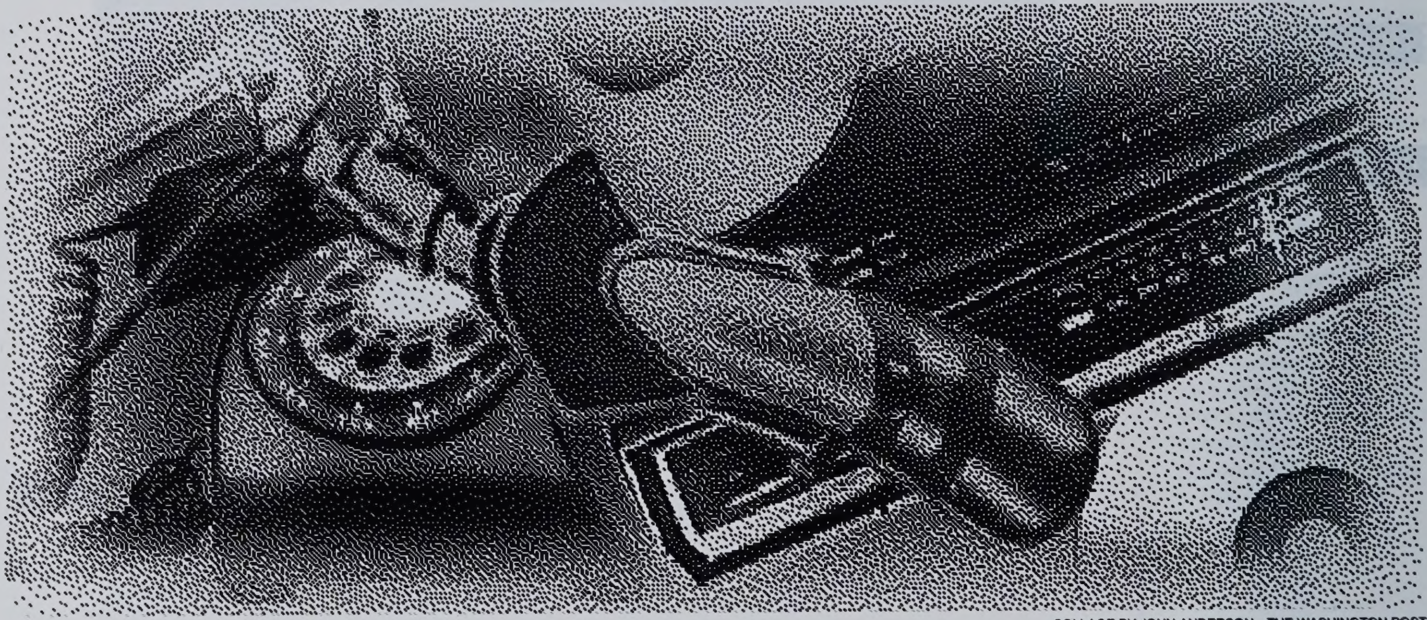
“IN YOUR OWN WORDS”

WFLA-TV (Tampa, FL)

THIRD PLACE *A small Florida town loses its first policeman in 40 years. A black Tampa officer speaks out.*

DESCRIPTION "Gave fresh perspective on a type of story we see all too often."

Radio JOURNALISM



COLLAGE BY JOHN ANDERSON—THE WASHINGTON POST

SPORTS RADIO —

FIRST PLACE ROLAND MARTIN

"MICHAEL IRVIN BUSTED"

KDA-730 (Grand Prairie, TX)

SECOND PLACE VINCENT THOMPSON

"TIGER'S REVOLUTION BEGINS"

WHYY-FM (Philadelphia, PA)

THIRD PLACE TY MILLER

"BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL WEEKLY"

SBN Sports Network (Pittsburgh, PA)

NEWS RADIO —

FIRST PLACE JONATHAN BLAKELY

"THE MILLION MAN MARCH AND MOTOWN SOUNDS AND REFLECTIONS ONE YEAR LATER"

WWJ/CBS Radio (Detroit, MI)

SECOND PLACE JONATHAN BLAKELY, VICKIE THOMAS

"ROSS MURDER"

WWJ/CBS Radio (Detroit, MI)

THIRD PLACE VICKIE THOMAS

"DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION"

WWJ/CBS Radio (Detroit, MI)

DOCUMENTARY RADIO —

FIRST PLACE DENISE JONES

"SPIRITUAL MOTIFS IN THE MUSIC OF DIANE REEVES"

WRTI (Philadelphia, PA)

SECOND PLACE JANICE LITTLEJOHN

"ELECTION 96 VOTER REPORT"

Radioscope/Bailey Communications (Los Angeles, CA)

THIRD PLACE CHRIS DeCHANT, HOPE DANIELS

"AIDS AND AFRICAN-AMERICANS, REASONS FOR HOPE"

WUUA (Chicago, IL)

More information about the radio winners was not available at presstime.

THANK YOU

NABJ Contest Co-Chairs
SYDNEY TRENT
The Miami Herald

GRACE SIMPSON
WTIC-TV/ Hartford, Conn.

◆

Awards Book Designer/Art Director
HIRAM HENRIQUEZ
The Miami Herald

◆

Program Coordinator
RENEE HICKMAN
NABJ

HEAD JUDGES/PRINT

Daily News
KEITH WOODS
Poynter Institute

Enterprise (large newspapers)
JOE WILLIAMS
The Boston Globe

Enterprise (small newspapers)
YVONNE LAMB
The Washington Post

Features (large newspapers)
MICHAEL ROLLINS
The Oregonian, Portland, Ore.

Features (small newspapers)
PEARL STEWART
Xavier University

Business
ELEENA DELISSER
The Wall Street Journal

International Reporting
JOE RITCHIE
Florida A&M University

Sports (large newspapers)
VERNON SMITH
The Dallas Morning News

Sports (small newspapers)
TONNYA KENNEDY
The Nashville Banner

Commentary (large newspapers)
REGINALD STUART
Knight-Ridder

Commentary (small newspapers)
GAYLE POLLARD
Los Angeles Times

Magazines
SUSAN JACOBS
Press-Telegram, Long Beach, Calif.

Photography/Art & Design
KEN IRBY
Poynter Institute

Students
MELANIE BURNEY
Associated Press

HEAD JUDGES/TELEVISION & RADIO

News (top markets)
SARAH ANN SHAW
WBZ-TV/ Boston

News (small markets)
JANE McCLINTON
WSB-TV/Atlanta

Enterprise
VERONICA PERRY
WVIT-TV/Hartford, Conn.

Features (top markets)
TERRY OWENS
WMAR-TV/ Baltimore

Features (small markets)
MYA McGARY
BET/ Washington, D.C.

Sports
BYRON SCOTT
WPHL-TV/ Philadelphia

International Reporting
MONICA EVANS
WTIC-TV/ Hartford, Conn.

Documentary
CLIF CALDWELL
KXAS-TV/ Dallas/Ft. Worth

Public Affairs
KAREN HOLMES WARD
WCVB-TV/ Needham, Mass.

Photojournalism
WILLIE CHRIESMAN
WCVB-TV/Boston

Radio
CONDACE PRESSLEY
WSB-AM/Atlanta

SPECIAL THANKS TO

JEANNE FOX-ALSTON
The Washington Post

RONALD ANDREWS
WTIC-TV/ Hartford, Conn.

MARC YVES REGIS
The Hartford Courant

■ Back cover photo by Ron Cortes, for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

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